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# Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

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## Groundbreaking for trail at Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge



## Trails and Blueways Council (TBC) Meeting Notes

Two highlights from the September 24 meeting:

- TBC members presented their lists of district trail projects for the upcoming FY26 **Capital Improvement Program** \*(CIP), including recreational trails in greenway corridors, biking/pedestrian infrastructure, and safety improvements for roadways. The complete list is being compiled with the minutes of the meeting.
- Prince William County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) reported that land dedications to the county and easements will allow for completion of the Broad Run trail on the east side of the stream between Route 28 and the existing trail segments in the vicinity of Victory Elementary School. DPR will complete the trail on the east side, as well as a trail connection to Hornbaker Road. It is anticipated that a trail on the west side of the stream will be completed via proffers associated with the development projects.

TBC agendas and approved minutes of previous meetings are **posted online**.



## Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) Updates

With funding from a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant for a consultant, representatives from the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council (TBC), PHNST Trail Association, Town of Dumfries, Potomac Magisterial District, Prince William Forest Park and other National Park Service discussed options for closing three gaps in the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) during two stakeholder meetings in September.

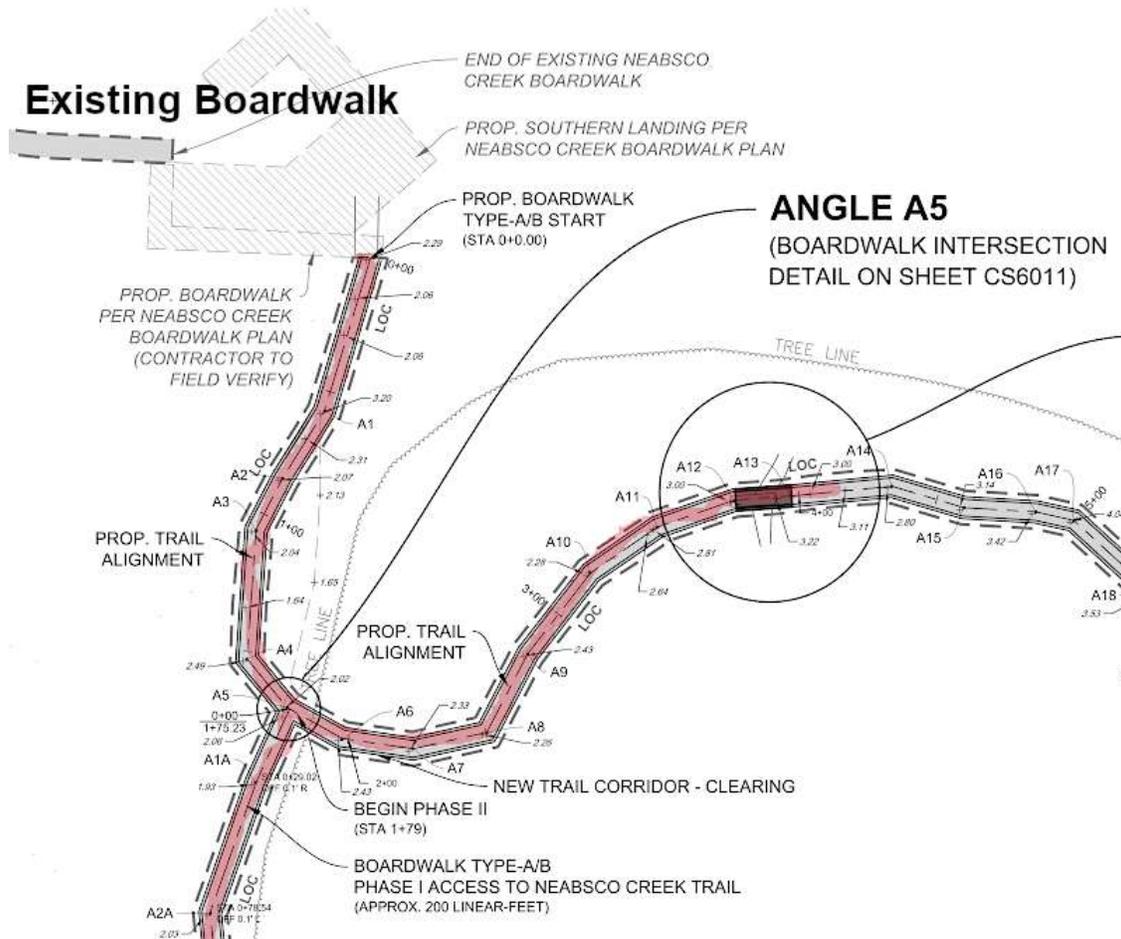
**See the interactive map** (zoom in for details, such as Gap 3 above) and hear the recordings for the meeting on **Gap 1** (password is *nTveevB8*) and **Gap 2 and Gap 3** (password is *iGCc98Be*).

Comments, questions, or concerns should be directed to **David Kroeger** no later than Monday, October 14.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission completed PHNST **Corridor Analysis studies** in 2011, 2015, and 2022, and NVRC hired BBC Research & Consulting to study the benefits of the PHNST. The **resulting study**, released in January 2022, estimated that closing the remaining gaps would generate an additional \$80 million in annual mortality benefits and \$13 million in annual avoided health care costs.

NVRC will share results from its 2024 Wayfinding and Amenities Study on October 21. [Register](#) for the 11:00am-noon webinar. A public meeting on the Loudoun County Feasibility Study is scheduled for October 29. That meeting will be in-person from 6:00-8:00pm at the Ida Lee Recreation Center in Leesburg, and [on Zoom](#) from 7:00-8:00pm. The studies are available on the [PHNST dashboard](#).

Also, the National Park Service has drafted a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to authorize activities where the trail passes under a highway. That MOU will be relevant when Prince William County needs VDOT land use permits to close current gaps in the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.



## Extending Neabsco Boardwalk

On the October 8 agenda for the Prince William Board of County Supervisors (BOCS), [Item 7C](#) will provide \$750,000 to match a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant received in 2022. If approved, that funding will allow construction of a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) south of the existing Neabsco Boardwalk into the Metz Wetland.

Each year 300,000 people visit the current boardwalk. [Adding an additional 3,495 linear feet of decked boardwalk](#), 30" above the ground, will resolve flooding issues with a portion of the existing natural surface trail on the south side of Neabsco Creek.

Additional funding will be required to improve the trail all the way to Leesylvania State Park. If you are a county resident, you can use **Find My Supervisor** to tell your district's supervisor and the BOCS chair that you support funding the **trails network** that has already been approved in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan - or tell all 8 of them via a short e-mail to **bocs@pwccgov.org**



## October 9: Walk to School Day

Schools, community groups, and families can advertise a Walk to School Day event for any date in October - **register online**.

From *Greater Greater Washington* on September 11, 2024: **A walking school bus can solve a lot of problems. Here's how to start one:** "Host a playdate to recruit families (extra credit if they're on or near a sensible route to get to school), and discuss ground rules and expectations. Putting out a call on a school or neighborhood list serve can be a good way to recruit people."

"Walktober" is Walking Month. Maryland Department of Planning is offering 5 webinars (**register online**) at 10:30am:

October 3: *From Nation to Neighborhood: Exploring National and State Perspectives*

October 10: *Crafting Safe Spaces for Every Step with Every Trip*

October 17: *Sidewalks to Safety: Ensuring Secure Routes for Students*

October 24: *Step Forward: Advancing Pedestrian Access and Safety*

October 31: *Sustainable Growth: How walkability creates more equitable and vibrant places for all*



## Safe Streets & Roads for All (SS4A) Projects

City of Manassas has received **Safe Streets & Roads for All** funding for demonstration/pilot projects on the Liberia and Hastings Safety Improvements Corridors, including a road diet on Hastings Drive between Clover Hill and Dumfries roads. The proposal is to narrow the road from four to two lanes and add 6-foot buffered bike lanes temporarily, then to collect data and feedback and see if the community would want this implemented permanently.

**\$1 billion in grants** were awarded to 354 local, regional, and tribal communities.

Manassas Park already has a 15mph speed limit on some city streets (see above).

Prince William County could also receive a grant to 1) pilot dynamic messaging systems to improve driver behavior related to speed and driver awareness, 2) test AI detection/tracking technologies to collect near miss data within high crash intersections across the County, and 3) work with the County DOT to pilot a pedestrian and vulnerable road user education campaign.

On September 17, the Board of County Supervisors deferred action on applying for the grant after discussion of concerns about using artificial intelligence to track county citizens. **See discussion** on Item 4c) on the consent agenda (starting at 48 minutes into the meeting).



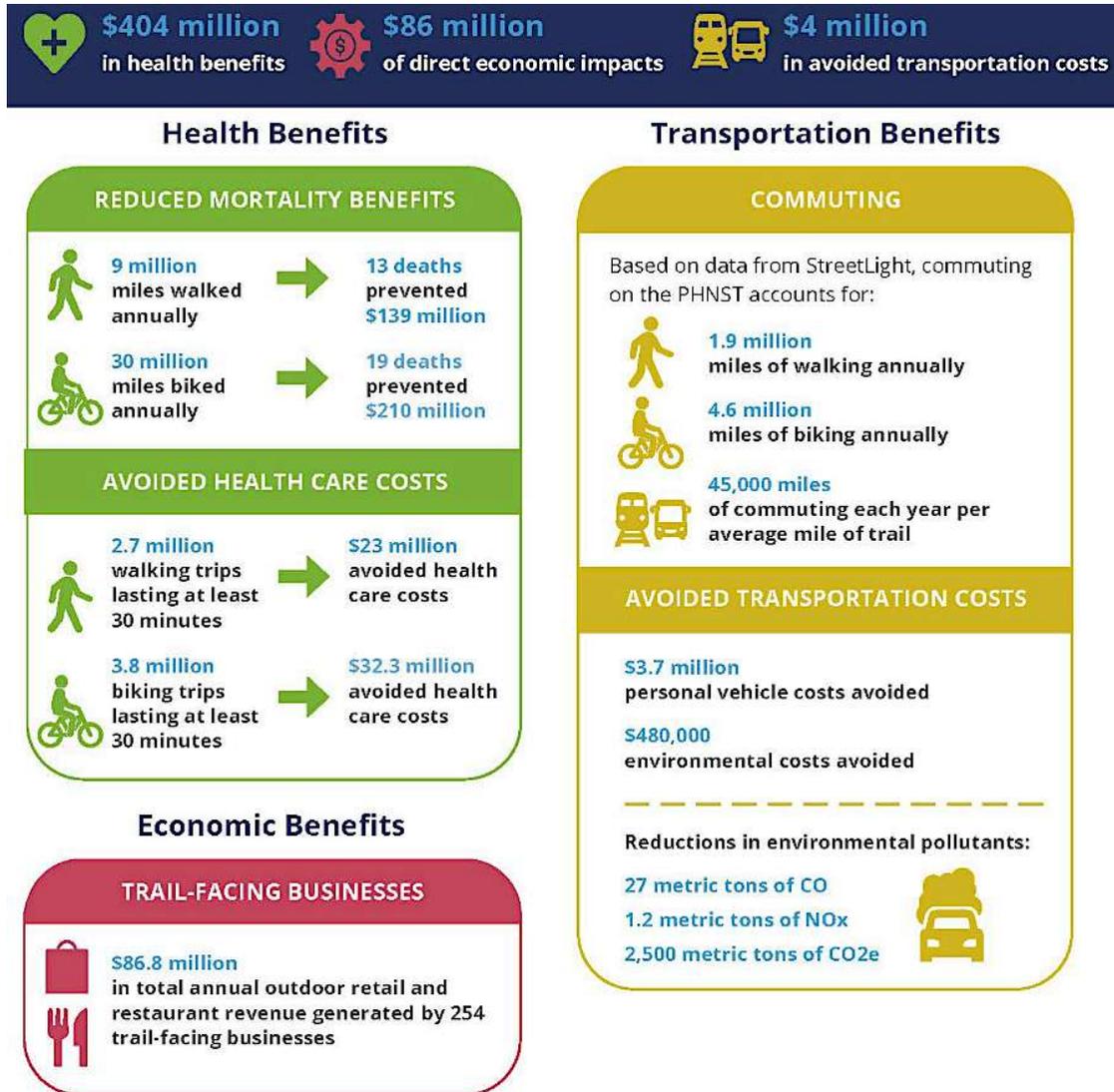
# Stream Cleanups: Keep Our Blueways Green

Nov 6 - Wetlands Studies and Solutions. Inc. Cleanup Up-Rocky Br.

Nov 9: Bull Run Watershed Protectors Cleanup- COSTCO Area

Nov 16: Little Bull Run Watershed Cleanup

Check out the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District [video of the Occoquan River cleanup](#) in 2020.



## In Other News...

- **9th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon** community bike ride starts and finishes at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.
- October 12 is the day for the **Bikes & Beers Manassas** bike ride. All rides feature morning fuel stations, fully marked routes, GPS turn-by-turn instruction, rest stops, refreshments,

ride marshals, and SAG support. Finish back at 2 SILOS BREWING CO. for a festival of rewarding craft beers, live music, charity raffle & much more!

- **Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail** hosts the Trailblazer community bike ride on October 19.
- **Active Fairfax Explained** (Washington Area Bicyclist Association). The map consolidating the 1976 Countywide Trails Plan and the 2014 Bicycle Master Plan “*doesn’t propose what facilities go where; rather, it sets out the key local and regional routes. To help determine the types of facility that would be appropriate on a given route, staff concurrently developed the Active Transportation Toolkit.*”
- October is National Pedestrian Safety Month. Check out **Pedestrian Safety in Greater Prince William County** and the case study by Vision Zero for Youth, **Vision Zero prioritizes safe walking and biking for youth in Arlington, Virginia.**



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The Greater Price William Trails Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN: 92-3087298).  
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