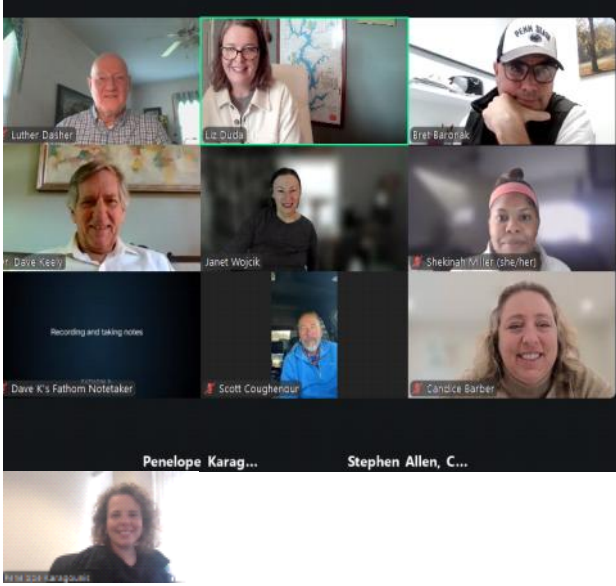



3/4/2026 BPC Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 9:02 AM

<p>Attendees: Steve Allen, Catawba Regional COG; Candice Barber, SC DSS, Bret Baronak, Carolina Thread Trail; Scott Coughenour, Fort Mill resident & business owner; Luther Dasher, RFATS CAC; Liz Duda, Tega Cay Healthy Kids; Penelope Karagounis, Town of Fort Mill Planner; Dr. Dave Keely, RFATS CAC, Tobacco-Free York County; Shekinah Miller, Impact York County, Atrium Health; Janet Wojcik, Winthrop University, American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM)</p>		 <p>About Advocacy</p> <p>Making connections for York County</p> <p>The Bike/Ped Coalition (BPC) of York County is a collaborative community-based coalition supporting safe pedestrian and rolling throughout York County, South Carolina.</p> <p>Members are from municipalities and the county, age recreational clubs, schools, local businesses, and non interested citizens. We come from all over York County.</p>
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Action Items

1. Find location for in-person May and September 2026 BPC meetings (Liz) - Velodrome (first choice); Fort Mill Town Hall; Rock Hill church
2. Invite to future BPC meetings:
 - a. New Outdoor Director, Rock Hill PRT (Molly Koester-Bruce, Cycling & Outdoor Supervisor)
 - b. Marvin Bouknight, [Catawba Bend Preserve](#) Superintendent, York County & ask to be guest speaker.
 - c. Current [Palmetto Walk Bike](#) director or representative
 - d. Brown Simpson
3. Contact Chris Stephens & Jonathan (York County) about bike route review (Steve A).
4. Email Steve Allen photos/details for Hunter Street Elementary sidewalk to request funding review (Dr. Dave)
5. Add Harris Street Park to Fort Mill budget requests (Penelope K)
6. Send York County health scorecard training to Dr. Dave (Shekinah M).
7. Share to social media:
 - a. [Discussion of ACSM presentation](#) Comparison of Built Environment Indicators to BPC LinkedIn group (Janet)
 - b. People for Bikes/LAB advocacy alerts (Luther)
 - c. Meeting photo (Liz)

Discussion Highlights

Funding & Grant Opportunities

- **RFATS Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**
 - The grant amount has increased from \$150k to \$750k.
 - Fort Mill: Will not apply this cycle; prioritizing CMAQ.
 - Could go to Tega Cay, York County, or Rock Hill - need matching funds.
- **RFATS CMAQ**

- Up to \$3MM.
- Fort Mill: For traffic signal adaptations, ensuring synchronized signals.
- Rock Hill: Federal funding will no longer be provided for the flyover/footbridge project (no longer TIP-funded) but is pursuing CMAQ funding.
- **Rural TAP**
 - Once the cycle opens, expect a 4-week turnaround.
 - Minimum Project Cost: \$500k.
 - City of York: Will submit one of three downtown bike/ped projects.

Funding Need

- **Hunter Street Elementary Sidewalk Gap in City of York**
 - A 200–300 ft sidewalk gap in York blocks safe school access; is in long-range plan. A third single-family development could be connected (vacant or existing homes?).
 - Town would have to apply for TAP, but the project is too small for the \$500k rural TAP minimum. One per jurisdiction per cycle.
 - Catawba COG does rural planning to include York and Clover. The COG's GuideShare program is an alternative funding source. The project is already in the long-range plan, and GuideShare funds are available.
- York County doesn't have a lot of projects right now.
- See if Carolina Orchards is through building. Missed opportunity with Springfield protesting when federal funding was available.

Project Updates

- **Rail Trail Research**
 - Ownership: Title search confirmed the Rock Hill–York corridor is fully owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad, simplifying acquisition. City of York and west is divided among multiple property owners.
 - SC's Columbia appraisal may be a good experience - needs qualified appraisers; ROW acquisition companies
 - Appraisal: Bret is researching appraisers with rail corridor experience (e.g., Saluda Grade Trail) to get quotes. Goal is appraisal later this year.
 - Intermediary: Bret is meeting with The Conservation Fund to identify a new contact after David Proper's retirement.
 - Next step: Will update Dale and decide when committee should meet
- **Fort Mill Trail Connections**
 - Downtown Connection: A new sidewalk along the Harris Street sewer line creates a path to the amphitheater, enabling downtown access without a new bridge.
 - Harris Street Park Trail: Penelope will re-submit a budget request for this trail, which connects to Riverview Elementary.
 - Guideshare funding on Spratt Street to have connection into the downtown area October 1 budget cycle
- **Catawba Bend Preserve** - Soft opening scheduled for this Saturday. Invite Mar
- **York County Bike Route Re-evaluation**
 - Need to re-evaluate the ~12-year-old routes due to increased traffic, which Christopher Stevens shared in February meeting that he is doing.
 - York County is actively replacing ~100 missing signs. The Rock Hill Bike Club's has volunteered for route assessments.
- **Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan Update**
 - A region-wide update of all 15 county plans is underway with consultant McAdams. Written 15 years ago.
 - Steering Committee of SC counties is forming, with some coalition members to be invited by Jane Love soon, and partners from governments and others that work closely with; another partners group will meet less frequently.
- **American Fitness Index (AFI) Presentation**

- The Charlotte area (Mecklenburg, Gaston, York) ranks ~60th overall.
- A low "built environment" score (88th) is the primary challenge, driven by car-centric infrastructure.
- <https://acsm.org/about/community-impact-programs/american-fitness-index/>

Advocacy Opportunity

- Call to Action: Contact legislators to protect federal bike/ped funding, which is getting cut nationally.
 - Groups to Follow: People for Bikes, League of American Bicyclists, Rails to Trails.
 - Palmetto Walk Bike: The coalition needs to re-establish contact with the state advocacy group to coordinate efforts.
- Pedestrian Bridge needs to happen across Springfield Parkway