

11/1/2023 BPC Meeting

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 9:00 AM

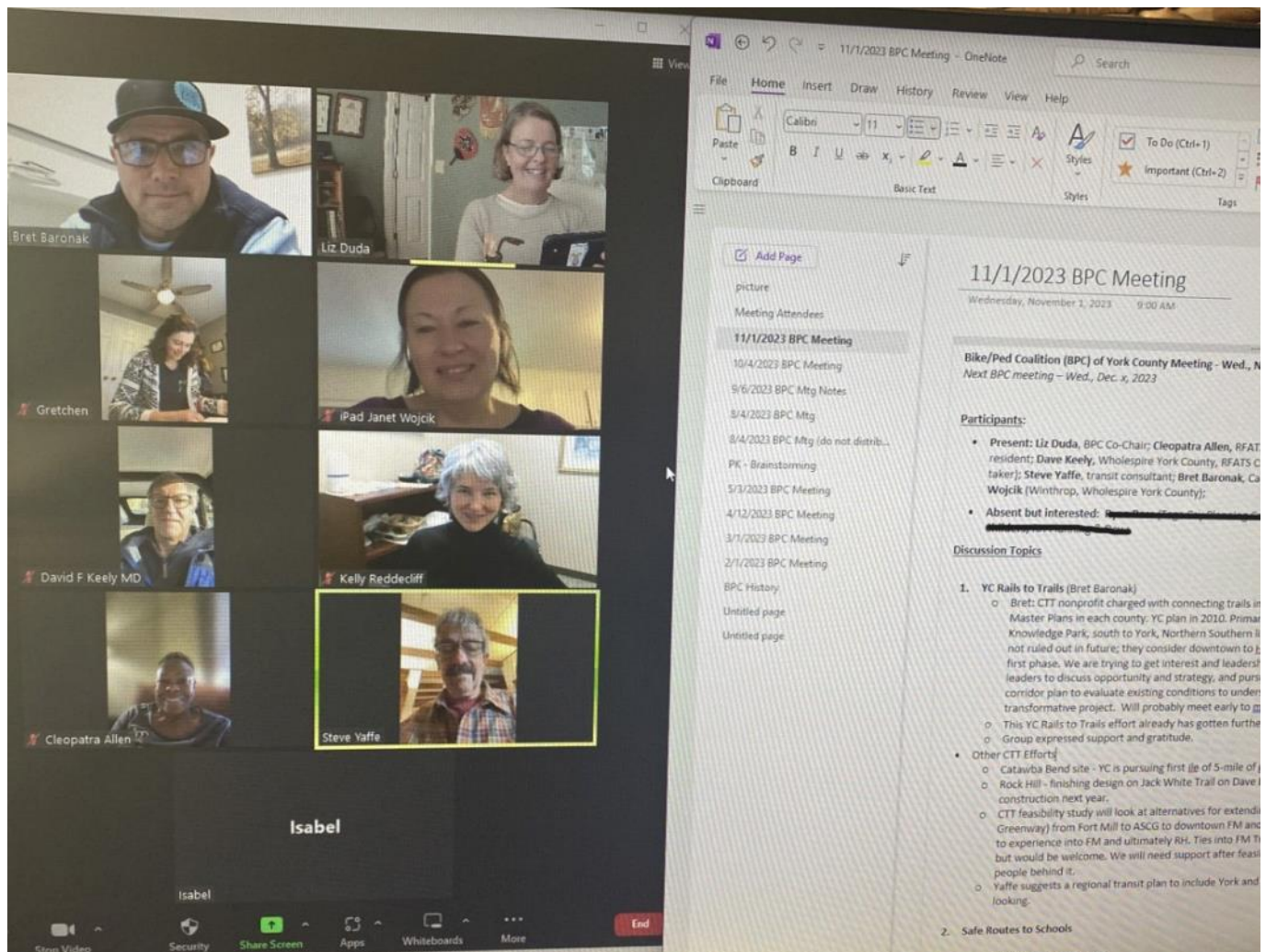
Bike/Ped Coalition (BPC) of York County Meeting - Wed., Nov. 1, 2023

Next BPC meeting – Wed., Jan. 3, 2024, 9am, virtual

Meeting summary: The [Carolina Thread Trail](#) executive director shared the background and next steps on our York County Rails to Trails efforts, including the goal of meeting with local leaders over the next six weeks. Fort Mill Township residents discussed their Safe Routes to School advocacy efforts to Fort Mill High School and discussed next steps with the coalition. Other updates covered the Carolina Thread Trail feasibility study for extending the trail from Sugar Creek through Fort Mill and Anne Spring Close Greenway to Rock Hill and Lancaster County; a Rock Hill trail from the river to downtown; Catawba Bend park's "first mile" effort; and Rock Hill School District's [Walk and Talk Thursdays](#).

Maybe we will see you at the next [RFATS Policy Committee meeting](#) (hopefully they will start to livestream or record these meetings) on Friday, Nov. 17 (noon) at the Rock Hill Operations Center.

Participants: Liz Duda, [Tega Cay Healthy Kids](#) (BPC Co-Chair); Cleopatra Allen, [RFATS](#) Citizen Advisory Committee; Bret Baronak, [Carolina Thread Trail](#); Gretchen Benner, FM resident; Isabel Flores, FM resident; Dave Keely, [Wholespire York County](#), RFATS Citizen Advisory Committee; Kelly Reddecliff, [YC EDC](#); Janet Wojcik [Winthrop University](#), Wholespire York County; Steve Yaffe, [transit consultant](#)



Discussion Topics

1. YC Rails to Trails (Bret Baronak)

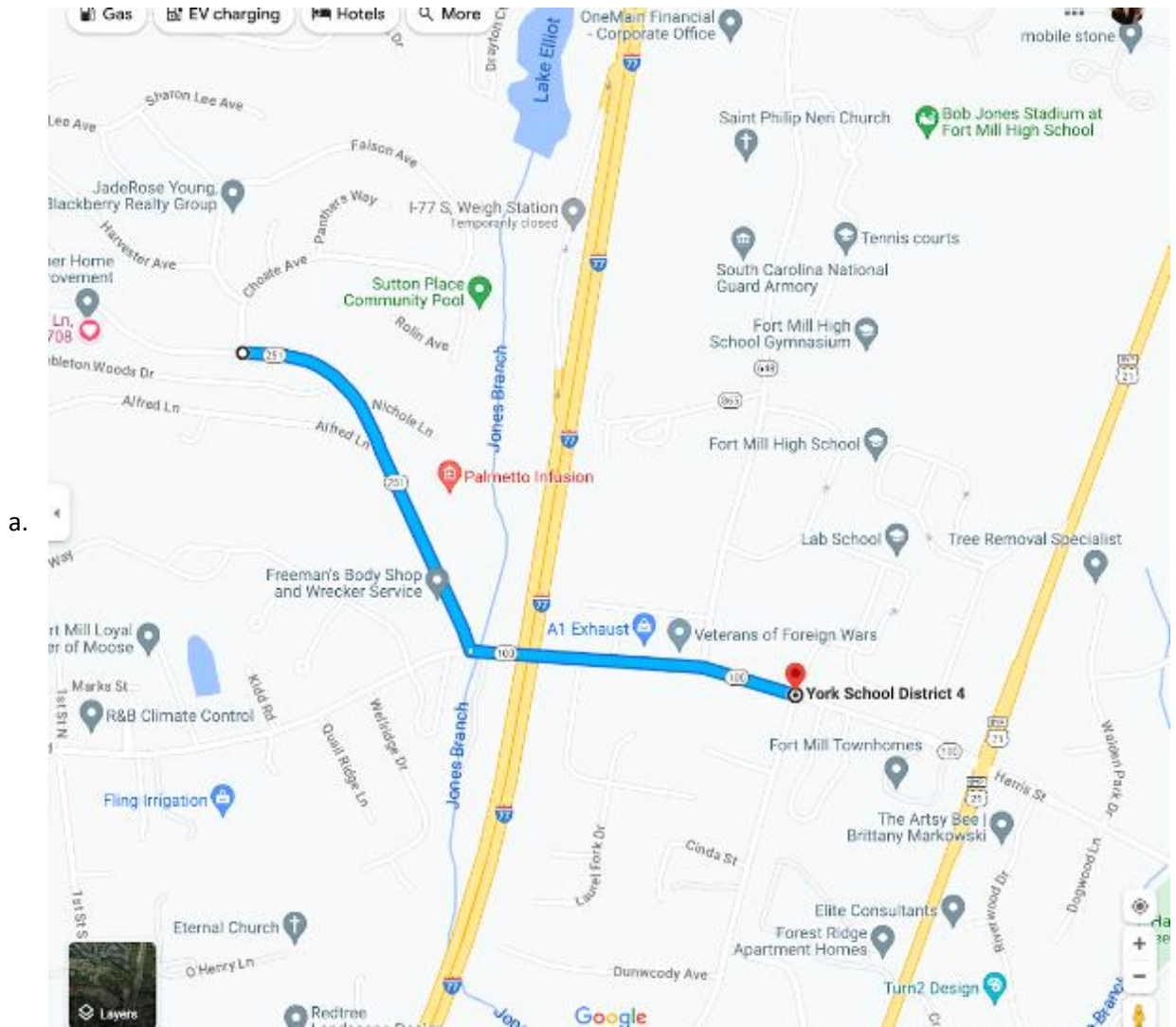
- **Carolina Thread Trails (CTT) background:** Nonprofit charged with connecting trails in 15 counties around Greater Charlotte, for 50 years. Master Plans in each county.
- **York County rail trail route background:** York County trail master plan, from 2010, has primary thread-trail corridor of the rail trail - from RH near Knowledge Park, south to York, via the Norfolk Southern (NS) line. Would be a transformative project for this region.
- **York County rail trail status:** NS not interested in selling or donating now but not ruled out in future; they consider downtown to Herlong to be "active."
- **Next steps:**
 - We expect that rail trail first phase could be beyond Herlong. We are trying to get interest and leadership by pulling together municipal and county leaders (mayors, city council, city managers) to discuss opportunity, next steps and strategy given the initial "no." Bret aims to host meeting in early to mid December (to include Stephen Allen, Jason Flora, and Liz Duda)
 - We could pay for a corridor plan to evaluate existing conditions to understand how to make into a trail.
 - This YC Rails to Trails effort already has gotten further than past attempts. We are getting encouragement to keep our efforts going.
- **Feedback:** Group expressed support and gratitude.

2. Other CTT Efforts (Bret Baronak)

- **Catawba Bend site** - YC is pursuing "first mile" of 5-mile of greenway on Catawba River.
- **Rock Hill** - finishing design to get from river to downtown on Jack White Trail on Dave Lyle Boulevard by northside rec center, under construction next year.
- **CTT feasibility study** - will look at alternatives for extending the trail from state line (Little Sugar Creek Greenway) from Fort Mill to Anne Springs Close Greenway to downtown FM to Rock Hill and Lancaster border. Ties into FM Trail Master Plan.
 - Sustain Charlotte is not involved given this is York County but would be welcome.
 - We will need support after feasibility study determines the best route to get people behind it.
- Yaffe suggests a regional transit plan to include York and Lancaster. Baronak clarified where they are looking.

3. Safe Routes to Schools - FMHS (Gretchen Benner)

- Several neighborhoods are within 1.5 miles and need safe pedestrian/cycling access to the high school.
 - FMHS has no sidewalk from half of school to residential areas and given she lives 1.25 miles from school, she is emailing local reps and attending meetings to get support for a connection to an existing larger sidewalk. Also important for connections to other locations including Kingsley so good for community, Safe Routes to School, and local businesses.
 - Several residents are advocating for sidewalk along Harris.
 - Baronak would welcome sidewalks along 21 to given signs saying "children walking" (also a bike route).
- She and others spoke at [August 14 FM town council meeting](#) and [September 22 RFATS Policy Committee](#) meeting - seemed well received.
 - FM meeting included June 2023 [Town of Fort Mill Draft Trail Master Plan](#) (draft 'til incorporated into FM Comprehensive Plan) which included Harris Road/Street Sidepath as a priority project.
 - RFATS meeting included presentation on safer Tega Cay crosswalks.
- Met with Amy Boulris and Liz to discuss a FM Safe Routes to Schools advocate with a success story.
- Isabel Flores was directed to BPC/Liz by FM planner and is pleased to join this advocacy effort for her family and community
- Keep in mind [SCDOT](#) Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) funding.
- **Next steps** - Get together with FM planning Penelope Karagounis to understand FM trail masterplan to see if it covers full safe routes to school concerns and understand where to target advocacy. Consider a walkability study around FMHS.



a.

4. Roundtable

- a. Janet Wojcik - [American College of Sports Medicine](#) will host its annual conference in Boston in May; she will do walkability session with Mark Fenton, similar to the one we did with him at Palmetto Cycling Coalition's SC Bike Ped Trails Summit in Newberry this year. Important to teach people how to do these.
- b. Rock Hill School District [Walk and Talk Thursdays](#), Oct. 5 - Nov. 9, Serena Williams, RHSD Community Engagement

Past followups:

- a. [Historic Paradise Foundation](#) received bicycles and would like to auction two to earn money and promote their nonprofit. Type, value, how? People suggested contacting [The Re-Cyclery](#) in NODA and Riverwalk bike shop. (Liz Duda for Danielle Redmond)
- b. Liz will invite Clover Parks & Rec to next meeting.
- c. Plan to volunteer at the BMX World Cup hosted by [RHPRT](#) in May 2024: 4000 riders from 40 countries; need multilingual volunteers; will engage the community around cycling; the last competition before the Summer Olympic Games so a big deal!
- d. FMHS Safe Routes to School advocacy blog planned (Liz/Gretchen)
- e. In-person meeting and revisit BPC strategy ?
- f. Read the [BPC history blog](#), Liz Duda, 9.23.2023 - thanks to Susan Collier, SC DHEC, and Tom Bell, RHPRT

Upcoming Events

1. [16th Annual Trail Forum](#), Catawba Lands Conservancy and Carolina Thread Trail, Dec. 5, Mooresville, NC

2. RFATS Policy Committee Meeting [2023 schedule](#). Next meeting: Nov. 17
3. Northwestern High School [Turkey Trot](#), Rock Hill, Nov. 18
4. Girls on the Run of the Tri-County [Reindeer Romp 5K](#), Rock Hill, Dec. 2

Funding Opportunities:

- York County [Pennies for Progress updates](#)
- Palmetto Cycling Coalition (PCC) [Funding Resource Guide](#), Dec. 2022