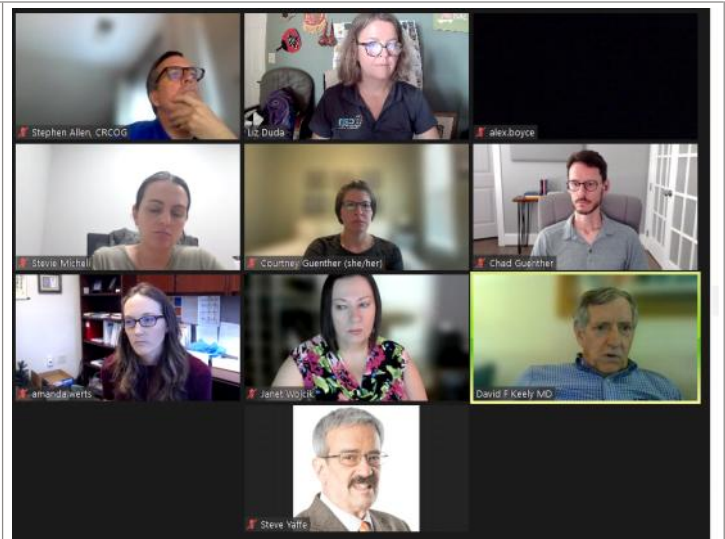


# 6/12/2024 BPC Notes

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 9:00 AM

## Attendees:

**Liz Duda**, Tega Cay Healthy Kids  
**Cleopatra Allen**, RFATS Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)  
**Stephen Allen**, Catawba COG  
**Candice Barber**, DSS Workforce Consultant  
**Lauren Childers Hebert**, Town of Fort Mill Planner  
**Chad Guenther**, Rock Hill resident, avid cyclist  
**Courney Guenther**, Rock Hill resident, Riverwalk area  
**Dr. David Keely**, Wholespire York County, Impact York County, RFATS CAC  
**Amanda Werts**, Rock Hill grant supervisor  
**Janet Wojcik**, Winthrop, Wholespire York County  
**Steve Yaffe**, transit consultant



**Meeting summary:** After introductions of new and returning people which included representation from transportation and transit, municipal and state government, universities, and residents, a roundtable covered: open public surveys with the Carolina Thread Trail and SC DOT; funding and grant activity including a letter of support from the BPC; the FMHS walkability study; and York County rails for trails. Community concerns highlighted ongoing safety issues for cyclists and pedestrians in Rock Hill, the opportunity for traffic calming and public education, and resident engagement through the Rock Hill Transportation Commission.

## Discussion Highlights:

### Public Surveys

- Carolina Thread Trail - State Line to Fort Mill - [Feasibility Study](#) survey to complete on website by June 20 - including how you commute, how you would like to commute, as shared by Lauren Hebert
- SCDOT Survey - multimodal transportation plan update; online survey (not great) - push it out to as many people as possible; every 5 years; statewide; required by rule; weren't many places to add comments; we naturally would emphasize active transportation
  - Important to funding
- SCDOT Input into Spratt Street

### Funding/Grants

- BPC letter of support for City of Rock Hill grant application (share screen) - to connect south side of Rock Hill to downtown Rock Hill; have had public input over next planned regional park (along Heckle Blvd near American Legion); this trail would run through that park and neighborhoods and into downtown Rock Hill; applying for ATIIIP grant; south side wants to access more bike/ped resources; working towards Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan
  - a. Approval? No concerns; consistent with past letters.
  - b. Next steps:
    - i. Add health benefits of being active
    - ii. Send to Janet and Steve and Rock Hill
    - iii. Make updates to wording
- 2024 [Bicycle Friendly Community applications](#) due by June 25, 2024
  - 2024 [Bicycle Friendly University applications](#) due by August 8, 2024

## Project/Program Updates

- FMHS Walkability Study (BPC/SC DHEC/Wholespire York County)
  - Liz Duda presentation at 5/20/2024 [Tega Cay City Council meeting](#) (min. 16)
  - Grey Young and Joe Romenick presentation at 6/4/2024 [Fort Mill School District Board meeting](#) (hr. 1:17:26)
  - Liz Duda to present at [6/17/2024 York County Council meeting](#) (6 minutes) - Anyone else?
    - Recommended focus?
  - Dr. David Keely & Liz Duda presented at 5/17/2024 RFATS Policy Committee meeting and FMHS SIC discussed at 3/25/2024 meeting
  - Press opportunities:
    - Press release
    - Website blog
    - Tega Cay Sun
- Rails to Trails - heard nothing back from Norfolk Southern; Brett Baronak talked to Mayor Gettys about cost of title searches; someone has to pick up tab on research; funding needs to be found to do the title search; then there will be planning / study grants; need to understand property ownership

## Organization Updates

- Steve Allen described the Catawba COG role of managing transportation program in rural area across York, Chester, Lancaster and Union Counties, in partnership with SCDOT, for areas outside of the metropolitan planning organization (MPO-RFATS); operating since 2011
- SCDOT
  - Head of transit group retired early along with other staff; shortstaffed; stabilized but evolving
  - Vic Edwards retired from District 4 out of Chester (COG plus Chesterfield County, Fairfield County, & \_\_\_)
- Safe Routes to School at a national level has resources; SC does not fund this program a state level despite receiving national funding, as noted by Dr. Keely

## Community Needs in Rock Hill

- Chad Guenther - avid cyclist for 20 years; moved to RH and chose Riverwalk due to sidewalks and cycling facilities; yet it is dangerous to ride around Riverwalk; nearly hit regularly; wants to see if can get change; met with RH transportation group - which he found to be fantastically open and willing to hear story; shared traffic calming ideas; one-car household (respect for the environment)
- Stephen Allen notes RH transportation commission meets monthly 3rd Wednesday of each month - direct contact with city officials
- Jim Reno is Guenther's councilmember
- Courtney Guenther would like to see safety as a priority and sees that a culture shift is needed
- Janet Wojcik notes that it is disheartening that one does not feel safe biking in a community was designed to facilitate active living; she notes how long it has been there; goal was good safe connectivity down Eden Terrace; the motto is "competition lives here" which is anthesis to commuting and active living; blind corners; 35 mph (35-45); used as a cutthrough; refuse is in the bike lane; designed with bike lane and cars parked with doors open
- City of Rock Hill Roads
- Need a public education campaign - cyclists, kids, older people, people with disabilities - safety first
- MyRide bus stops are mostly on sidewalks so safe; but hard to cycle to stops
- Red River Road advocacy (Chad)
- RFATS Citizen Advisory is interested in getting people off of main roads to reduce traffic - Luther
- Janet Wojcik noted the importance of walkability in a community

## BPC planning/leadership

- Anyone who wants to step in to lead or co-chair the BPC, and/or host every other BPC meeting, is welcome to take over from or work with Liz Duda
- BPC founded by professionals as described in this [Blog on BPC History](#) and has always been led by professionals until Liz Duda & Ben Ullman took over from Stephen Allen (who had planned to hand it off to rotating hosts)
- Developed to have an advocacy arm
  - Professionals should not lead the advocacy group; all muni partners need to be involved but not in the advocacy
- It is important for this committee to continue and have balance (RFATS agrees); need citizens, health officials, Winthrop

- BPC can be led by professional or citizen, with the advocacy efforts separate from the main coalition

Next BPC monthly meeting: Wednesday, August 7, 2024 (no July meeting)

- Remaining 2024 meetings (first Wednesdays at 9am): Aug 7; Sep 4; Oct 2; Nov 6; Dec 4, 2024
- Sign up to get on distribution list on BPC website
- To get the monthly series on your calendar system, download iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system:  
<https://dartmouth.zoom.us/j/98tyKuCupjlrH9OQsBGORowAGor4d-wtiVfj7cPqh7qVw8AYwreBPpEI-NOEpXo>

Next RFATS Policy Committee meeting: Friday, June 28, 2024

See the May 1, 2024 BPC meeting notes