

Bike/Ped Coalition (BPC) of York County Meeting - Wed., March 2, 2022, noon - Zoom

Next BPC meeting – Wed., April 6, 2022, 9am

Meeting participants: **Liz Duda**, Co-chair (Wholespire York County (YC), Tega Cay (TC) Healthy Kids, Impact YC, York CAN); **Ben Ullman**, Co-chair (Fort Mill (FM) resident, TC Forever, trails); **Steve Yaffe** (Regent Park resident, transit consultant, road cyclist); **Alex Boyce** (City of Rock Hill-Planning); **Janet Wojcik** (S. Charlotte resident, Winthrop, ACSM, Wholespire YC)

- *Guest speaker: Ivonne Hernandez*
- *Absent but provided advanced input: David Hooper; Danny Jones; Karen Reilly*

Meeting summary: Guest speaker discussed air quality, as we enter ozone season. Participants shared items of interest to the group including resources, and upcoming learning opportunities and community events. BPC continued strategy discussion and potential guest speakers.

Followups

1. (Feb. 2022) Distribute survey of strategy wording to membership for input — Duda /Ullman
2. (Feb. 2022) Publish mailing list signup form — Ullman
3. (ongoing) Determine future guest speakers; look to BPC members – Duda/Yaffe/Ullman
4. (Feb. 2022) Determine what we want to do for May, National Bike Month – All
5. Communicate with RFATS technical committee to understand if the BPC is meeting their needs, since we consider them to be key members/constituents – Hooper

Ivonne Hernandez, Air Awareness Coordinator for Charlotte region

- Charlotte region includes Mecklenburg and surrounding counties including York, Lancaster, Cabarrus, Iredell, Gaston; based in Mecklenburg County.
- Air quality and relationship with transportation. Two known pollutants in our region: 1) particulates and ozone. Particulate is anything that hangs in the air. Ozone is the main star in our region, from March 1 – October 31 given heat and longer days. Ozone is a photochemical reaction, needing sunlight, nitrogen oxides (e.g., from cars, asphalt and concrete plants) and volatile organic compounds (e.g., pine smells – can't control it).
- Particulate matter is so small that lungs can't block them so they get into the bloodstream, and are cardiovascular (impacting the heart); preliminary findings indicate that particulate matter may impact the brain (research continuing).
- Ozone primary impact is on the lungs. Bodies can heal, but there is a long-term impact.
- Regarding New Indy, is a facilitator of complaints that forward to SC DHEC and NC DHQ. If it relates to monitor, owned and managed by NC DHQ; if complaint, then to SC DHEC. The EPA also has stepped in.
- Sensitive adults are older adults who have experienced a lot; children; active adults; pre-existing conditions (e.g., asthma, respiratory issues) – an action date for ozone is particularly important for these folks
- How to protect your health: limit your exposure on days when ozone/particulate matter is forecast to be bad; walk, don't run (slower breathing rate)
- Air Quality Index – learn the code
- AirNow App – EPA tool (Janet Wojcik has had her students download this)

- On-road mobile sources (41%) - cars are the primary polluter, with over 1MM cars on the road in the Charlotte region; point sources (29%) - e.g., construction; non-road mobile sources (21%) - back hoes; excavators; area sources (9%) burning – leaf burning causes particulate matter, which impacts cardiovascular; trash has lots of bad
- We can take action -carpool, bike or take public transit; go electric with vehicles and lawn equipment; plan ahead and combine trips; practice energy efficiency at home by using efficient appliances; avoid idling and skip the drive thru; never burn trash. The impact of blowing leaves equals driving 1100 hours in a car. Idling pollutes more than turning car off and on.
- How can we convince neighbors to not heat the car up? Everyone has different capabilities.
- We meet federal standards.
- Creating a safer space for people to bike and walk. Having zero casualties would motivate people – cycling is good for health and air quality.
- New Indy Plant – Ivonne works in a state-funded commission for NC Air Awareness. Mecklenburg County does not have authority over this area. SC DHEC is taking the lead, and EPA is involved. Mecklenburg shares complaints which DHEC can track and enforce. Coordinate with NC DHQ and track sulfur dioxide SO₂. Monitor in Mecklenburg County. Public comment to EPA is underway now. Held a public hearing in January 2022. Air is impacted, which is why Air Awareness if not just for Mecklenburg but also surrounding county.
- Can you compare air quality at different stations?
- How much does air quality vary across areas (e.g., woods vs apartment vs street)? There is a difference but air travels. On a bad air quality day, it would even affect you in the woods.

Resources shared by Ivonne:

- [New Indy Response](#) – The opportunity to provide comment ends 3/11/22
- [Stay at Home Ozone Analysis \(3/26/20-4/29/20\)](#)
- [Analysis of Zone Concentrations during Covid-19 Pandemic \(March-October 2020\)](#)
- [Mecklenburg County Air Quality Data Page](#)
- Closest monitoring station in our area is the [Catawba Indian Nation](#).
- To get the latest air quality data in your area you can visit www.airnow.gov or download the app and type in your zip code.

Items of Interest to the Group

1. Janet shared that ___ moved from 57 to 64, but our built environment score is not very good. Access to parks and park funding
2. American Trails [introduction to trail assessment](#) using Universal Trail Assessment Process and High Efficient Trail Assessment Process
3. [Piedmont Trails Summit](#), 4 Fridays in March

4. Impact York County's data walk at RHSD office, March 25, 9-11am – sign up and invite your contacts.
5. Federal Reserve's **Investing in Rural America conference, March 30**
6. Clinton ConNEXTion Community Forum and Update, March 22, 6-8pm, McGirt Auditorium at Emmett Scott Center (see flyer)
7. <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/take-a-course/what-you-learn/>

Screenshots

The screenshots show a virtual meeting interface with participants and several informational graphics:

- Common Air Pollutants:** A graphic showing icons for Ground-level Ozone, Particulate Matter, Carbon Monoxide, and Sulfur Dioxide.
- Air Pollutants Impacts on Health:** A graphic titled "Sensitive Groups" listing Children, 65+, Pre-existing Conditions, and Active Ability.
- AQ Forecast - Know the Code:** A vertical bar chart showing the Air Quality Index (AQI) scale from Good (green) to Very Unhealthy (purple) with corresponding health advice.
- Drone-forming NOx Sources:** A pie chart showing percentages: 41%, 21%, 29%, and 9%.
- Help Curb Air Pollution:** A graphic listing actions like Recycle, Go Electric, Fuel Smart, Practice Energy Efficiency, Avoid idling, and Never Burn Trash.
- Good Days Have Doubled Since 2004:** A stacked bar chart showing the number of days by AQI color (Good, Moderate, Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy) from 2004 to 2019.

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