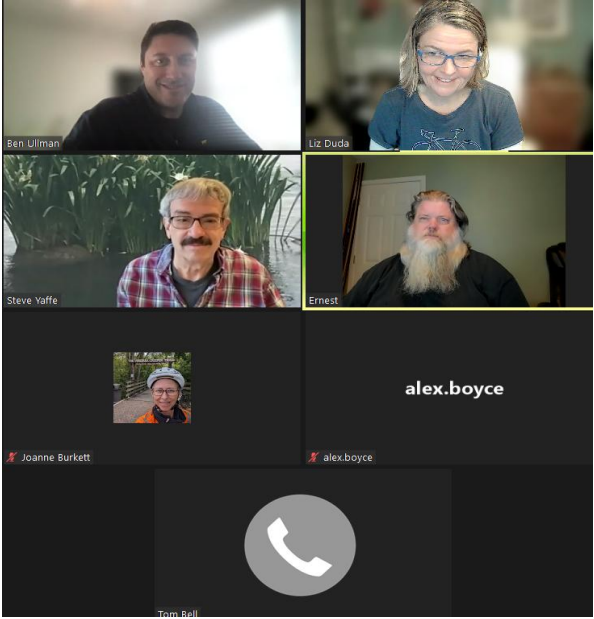


Bike/Ped Coalition (BPC) of York County Meeting Notes - Wed., December 7, 2022, 9am, Zoom
Next BPC meeting – Wed., Jan. 4, 2023

Meeting summary: After introductions and people news, participants shared upcoming events including that the Palmetto Cycling Coalition’s 2023 BikeWalkTrails Summit would be held in Newberry, June 8-9, and Smart Growth America is offering an exciting Complete Streets Champion training opportunity for state legislators (apply by 12/22). We brainstormed with and gave history to a resident who shared his hope for more cycling trails to be established and his push for rails-to-trails; a small group will meet again to discuss best approach and next steps. The next BPC meeting will be virtual on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

<p>Meeting Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Bell (City of Rock Hill) • Alex Boyce (City of Rock Hill) • Joanne Burkett (Palmetto Cycling Coalition) • Ernest Cogdell (rails-to-trails advocate) • Liz Duda, co-chair (Wholespire York County; Tega Cay Healthy Kids) • Ben Ullman, co-chair (trails advocate) • Steve Yaffe (iPath; transit consultant; York CAN; Sustain Charlotte) 	
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Followups:

- Duda/Cogdell - plan a rails-to-trails discussion.
- Duda - follow up with York County and Rock Hill Bike Club on bike trails.
- All - share with your legislator about Complete Streets Champion training opportunity (apply by 12/22) and your female friends studying planning about the [WTS SC Chapter](#) scholarship (apply by 12/28).
- Duda/Ullman – continue work on website.

Discussion Highlights

1. People news

- Steve Yaffe – new president of iPath.org, International Professional Association for Transportation and Health; <https://IPATHinc.org>; pushing coordination and collaboration between transport and health professionals; want to partner with universities.
- Ernest Cogdell - Enjoys riding his bike; wants better York-to-Rock Hill bike paths; advocating to city and council for more bike paths including rails-to-trails. Familiar with upstate SC territory including Swamp Rabbit Trail.

2. Upcoming events

- [BikeWalkTrails](#) Summit - June 8 & 9, 2023, Newberry, SC, Palmetto Cycling Coalition and SC Trails Coalition. Many factors led to that location, including the [Walkability Action Institute](#)

event. Topics will be relevant to our coalition including how to build local coalitions and networking. (Burkett)

- Could hold in York County in the future, in which case the PCC should contact VisitYorkCounty.com, Mallory Snyder, VP of Communications & Strategic Development; and Tom Bell, Rock Hill PRT
- b) [Complete Streets Champion's Institute for State Legislators](#), Smart Growth America, apply by 12/22/2022. A brand new technical assistance opportunity for state elected officials to gain the knowledge and strategy to advocate for safer and more Complete Streets; position participants to make the best use of funds from the infrastructure law, and make their communities more competitive for federal grants.
- c) Strong Towns 2023 [conference](#), Charlotte, May 30-31
- d) [Congress for New Urbanism](#), Charlotte, May 31-Jun 3 – mentioning Baxter Village and Rock Hill as “walkable urbanism” in conference promotion
- e) [RFATS Policy Committee Meeting](#) 2023 schedule - not yet online

3. Advocacy opportunity: Rails to Trails

- a) **Intro:** Cogdell would love for abandoned trails lines to be connected to become biking trails. He is focusing on Newberry to City of York.
- b) **BPC history:** BPC was started to give feedback on future projects and how to make biking and walking safer for RH residents to the Rock Hill planning department. The department was going through the master planning process and had little focus on safety for biking, walking, and wheelchair, and little coordinated processes. Projects were begun without consideration for bike, walk, safety. The BPC met with different groups involved with roadway and intersection and sidewalk planning to seek involvement at early project stages and get bike/ped amenities in the routine planning of roadways. Did inventories on roadways, road widths and where cyclists ride, which gave to SCDOT to consider when they involved road strips. Eventually changed from Rock Hill Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, to York County Bike/Ped Task Force, to Bike/Ped Coalition of York County. Bike/ped/rolling safety is now largely considered in planning.
- c) **Considerations:**
 - Bell shared how rails-to-trails previously was a priority for another group in which he was involved. He talked to groups, including Duke Power and the railroad which want to keep rails viable in case they have to bring in a Duke Power reactor, since roads cannot support the weight. Rail lines, while in disrepair, can be upfitted and used quickly.
 - Easement next to the railway?
 - Hospital/healthcare donor stepped up for Swamp Rabbit Trail.
- d) **Benefits:** economic; health
- e) It is a monumental effort to convince people and find funding. **What's needed:**
 - Consensus amongst all stakeholders. Mobilize the community for public support. Get people who to ask for it – e.g., schools; businesses (e.g., breweries); healthcare organizations (Novant; Piedmont; Atrium); tourism that would benefit
 - Get it into the municipal and county master plans – including Newport and York.
 - Funding. Grant is usually an 80/20.
 - RFATS to put into state Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and in the Catawba Regional planning organization plans
- f) **Suggested contacts:**
 - York County [Health and Environmental Protection Committee](#)
 - Tom Audette (chair), Allison Love, Robert Winkler

- SCDOT Commission chairman - and our rep is Gene Branham Sr, BranhamDE@scdot.org 803-737-0013. (new rep as of 10/2022: Jim Walden)
 - Luther Dasher, BPC Advocacy
 - Get people from Newport (Newberry?) on board.
 - VisitYorkCounty.com, Mallory Snyder, VP of Communications & Strategic Development
 - [RFATS](#) municipal planning organization
 - [Catawba Regional Council of Governments](#)
- g) **Reference materials:**
- <https://www.railstotrails.org/>
 - [City of York Comprehensive Plan](#), 2019-2029
 - [City of York Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Study](#), 2016
 - [York County Comprehensive Plan](#), 2016, and [2022 Update](#)
 - Newberry council [comprehensive plan](#) update is underway including [10/12/2022 meeting](#)
- h) **Followup:** Cogdell, Duda, and anyone else interested will talk to determine next steps

4. Other Updates

- a) Scholarship available for women, in SC and NC, planning to pursue a career in a transportation. Apply through the [WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter](#) or [WTS SC Chapter](#) by Dec. 28, 2022
- b) [Fort Mill Trails Master Plan](#) community survey closed on Nov. 30. The town's [Facility Needs Planning Survey](#) is open through Dec. 16.
- c) BPC Website – Updating categories (Ullman & Duda)
- d) Bike routes – connecting York County with Rock Hill Bike Club – opportunity to ensure the bike route signs are up and appropriate and give feedback on whether the bike routes still make sense
- David Bray, RHBC Advocacy Director
 - Chris Stephens, York County Transportation Planner
5. **Next BPC meeting - Wed., Jan. 4, 2023**, virtual. Everyone satisfied with virtual meetings for now. On Wednesdays, Ernest can only meet virtually. We can consider in person with a virtual option in future.

About the Bike/Ped Coalition of York County:

- **Website:** <https://bpcyc.org/>
- **Facebook page** (@BPCYC): <https://www.facebook.com/BPCYC/>
- **LinkedIn group:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9020582/>