1-March-2023 Bike/Ped Coalition of York County Meeting

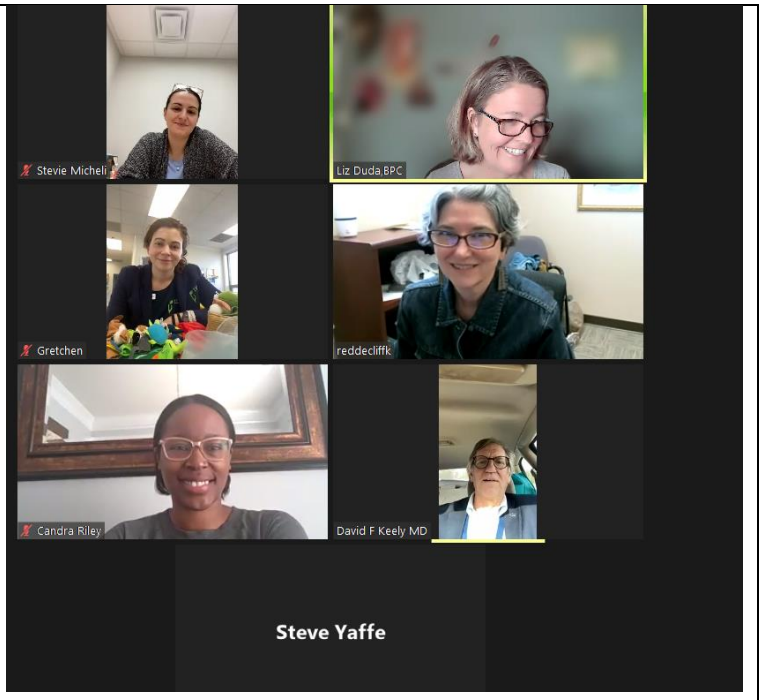
3/1/2023 BPC Meeting Summary: Participants discussed new efforts to establish a local rails-to-trails with various parties interested and the need for collaboration, which the BPC supports. A Fort Mill-area resident got feedback on how to effect action to ensure streets linking community spaces (FMHS, Baxter Y, Baxter trails, downtown Baxter, Catawba Park) are made safe for pedestrians/cyclists/other rollers. Announcements included RFATS' Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant to develop a comprehensive safety action plan; the significant number of people attending Fort Mill's Trail Master Plan public workshop**,** neighboring Charlotte greenway updates; and upcoming events.

Next meeting (*changed date***)**: Wednesday, April 12, 9am, Zoom

Attendance

Meeting participants: **Gretchen Benner**, FM resident, Piedmont Music Therapy; **Liz Duda** (BPC Co-Chair), TC Healthy Kids, Wholespire YC; **Dr. David Keely**, RFATS Citizen Advisory Committee, Wholespire YC, Tobacco-Free YC; **Kelly Reddecliff**, YC Economic Development Commission; **Candra Riley**, SC DHEC; **Stevie Micheli**, SC DHEC; **Steve Yaffe**, transit consultant

Absent but checked in: Ben Ullman (BPC Co-Chair)



Rails to Trails

- Talked to and got information including contacts, past efforts, and documentation from Stephen Allen (Catawba COG, formerly York County) and Susan Collier (SC DHEC), and have insights from Tom Bell (Rock Hill), who were engaged in past local rails-to-trails efforts. (Duda)
- Success factors:
    - Get the various stakeholders to speak as a unified voice to Duke and the rail. (Duda)
    - Who owns the rail line makes a difference. In his experience, CSX work with transit; Norfolk Southern works with nobody. Timing may now be good given Norfolk Southern challenges in Charlotte. (Yaffe)
- Chester County recently got an old rail bed that was grown over in Great Falls. (Riley)
- ***Next step**: Duda compile info; keep YC EDC in the loop; circle back with interested resident E. Cogdell.

RFATS

- Great news that RFATS' Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant was approved to develop a comprehensive safety action plan. (David Hooper via Duda)
- Duda requested in public comments that RFATS livestream or record/share the Policy Committee meetings since this is where our region's most important transportation decisions are made and funding is allocated

Safe Ped/Rolling Access Needed in YC/FM/Baxter

- The York County/Baxter/Fort Mill area needs safe ped/cycling/rolling access (e.g., a sidewalk, bike lane, or wider street) to get to community spaces like FMHS, the Baxter YMCA, Baxter trails, downtown Baxter, in other direction leading to Tega Cay's Catawba Park. (Benner)
- County Councilmember Tom Audette, District 1, emailed Benner about Sutton/Sam Smith Roads where they have cleared trees and added cones blocking any ped/cycling/rolling access. This area has many potholes and speeders.
- Other accountable representatives may include County Councilmembers Debi Cloninger, FM resident serving District 7; Watts Huckabee, chair of YC Health and Environmental Protection Committee.
- Any planning should ensure that the sidewalk is wide enough to meet ADA standards to be inclusive to rollers including wheelchairs. (Yaffe)
- Sutton/Sam Smith turn lanes are an existing Pennies for Progress 4 project (17228-010b). Can add the request for safer ped/cycling/rolling access to be considered as a Pennies 5 project.

Charlotte, NC, Greenways

- Heard from Mecklenburg County, Katie Lloyd, that building greenways down to state line for Little Sugar Creek Greenway, then late spring north of Tyvola; trying to acquire at least 400 acres and build 10 miles per year. Delays are acquiring land and coordinating projects to avoid tearing up other's work and leveraging investments; and extra state/federal oversight (Yaffe).
- The Sustain Charlotte greenways initiative had a presentation from Dennis Markatos-Soriano, executive director, East Coast Greenway Alliance, noting 1000 miles of the 3000 total built. Two N-S trails in the Carolinas: through Durham and Wilmington; they may meet by Charleston in the south. (Yaffe)

Other Updates

- Candra Riley: Has a box of Rules of the Road flyers to share with interested community members from the Palmetto Cycling Coalition
- Dr. Keely: Wholespire York County continues our work. This includes the Healthy Together 5-2-1-0 initiative encouraging kids to get one hour of moderate physical activity per day, in all school districts; and our Healthy Eating/Active Living workgroup.
- Dr. Keely: Bill now in state house trying to limit power of local governments to pass ordinances, specifically related to preemption for tobacco/e-cigarettes via S. 414 Tobacco Preemption for Special Order. Dr. Dave Keely will share talking points with Duda for the group about the problem with this bill which prevents our local communities from addressing local concerns (health of our communities, in this case, tobacco ordinances). We can find our legislators and contact them.

- Fort Mill long-range Trail Master Plan public workshop had over 100 people in attendance to give input into future trail network.

Upcoming Events

- Detective Mike Doty Memorial Run, May 13 (Benner)
- Healthy Kids Day at the Y in Lake Wylie - Leadership York County, April 29 (Reddecliff)
- Girls on the Run of the Tri-County 5K, May 6 (Duda)
- Tega Cay Elementary School Annual SC Walk & Roll to School Day, March 24 (Duda)