Sep 2 2026 BPC Notes

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 9:00 AM

Attendees:

- **Scott Couchenour**, FM resident
- **Luther Dasher**, FM resident, long-time advocate, RFATS citizen advisory committee (CAC), original member of RH Task Force
- **Liz Duda**, TC resident, Tega Cay Healthy Kids
- **Penelope Karagounis**, Town of Fort Mill, planner
- **Dr. Dave Keely,** retired family physician, RFATS CAC, Tobacco-Free York County
- **Theo Marakov,** City of Tega Cay, planner
- **Shekinah Miller**, Atrium Health, Impact York County
- **Mia Pulczinski**, Town of Fort Mill, planner
- **Chris Stephens,** York County, planner
- **Janet Wojcik**, Winthrop; ACSM



Meeting Summary: Welcomed folks from the state, municipalities, education, businesses, nonprofits, and residents. Discussed active transportation & safety initiatives underway across York County, including new City of York Bike & Ped Advisory Committee and county trail master plan. Explored facilitating a countywide e-bike safety initiative to be led by a new BPC subcommittee. Reviewed progress and ongoing safety concerns around Fort Mill High, including student crossings on Harris Road, sidewalk projects, signage speed-reduction opportunity, and opportunities to work with SCDOT and the school district. Discussed collaboration opportunity with local school districts on public health and transportation issues. Highlighted the need and ability to support more bicycle and scooter infrastructure.

Upcoming Events

- Thu. Sep. 9, 1:30 next RFATS Technical meeting
- Fri. Sept. 10, next RFATS Citizen, 4pm
- Fri. Sept 25, noon, next RFATS Policy Committee meeting
- Wed. Oct. 7, 5-7pm, SC Committee on Children Public Hearing tickets**,** Rock Hill City Hall, 5-7pm, register to testify or attend; ask for better pathways around schools
- Wed. - Fri. Oct. 7-9, SC Chapter of the American Planning Association (SCAPA) fall conference, Columbia

Followups

1. Get pictures from all the FMSD schools with bicycles; share with Town of Fort Mill
    - Couchenour - Mason's Bend & one other school
    - Duda - TCES
2. Research for the next meeting what exists, and interest, related to e-bike safety to help us determine if we want to coordinate an educational campaign across York County (everyone)
3. Advocacy opportunities: Ask Congress to support bike lanes and post to Facebook page
4. Follow up with SCDOT Tommy Feemster on FMHS-area safety enhancements to ask about specific

lighting, safety, signage and crosswalk (Gretchen Benner)

Future BPC discussion topics:
- Rail trails (Bret Baronak)
- SS4A national funding

Discussion Highlights:

Municipal and county initiatives
- City of York: Sarah Ramirez invited a couple of us to serve on a Bike/Ped Advisory Committee; working with Bolton & Menk
- York County: Chris Stephens is going through trail master plan now; working with Bolton & Menk - coming soon; information gathering to look at all plans; soon will get input

BPC opportunity to support e-bike safety throughout our county
- Plan to include:
  - Get inventory of what we have (any info from state patrol and police departments to help bicyclists and drivers who come into contact with them; public service announcements)
  - Figure out gaps
  - Determine communication plan
- Form a subcommittee to include or be led by Candice Barber

National advocacy opportunity
- Bike lanes are ideal to stop crashes. Some workers have to cycle to commute so need bike lanes. Used cars in good condition start at $16,000.
- The League of American Bicyclists asks people to send supportive notes to Congress to support funding for bike lanes.

Discussion of safety improvements around FMHS since 2024 walkability study
- Sidewalk updates
  - Sam Smith sidewalk project with 25-26 TAP funding (Tony Edwards, SCDOT project manager)
  - Chris Stephens hopes for York County to apply for funding in upcoming cycle for the second portion to get a sidewalk
- Safety concern for kids crossing Harris Road from apartments/homes
  - Ask SCDOT's Tommy Feemster for specific lighting, safety, signage and crosswalk
  - Do not expect a crosswalk
  - Ask the FMSD if they can do something for the students in the apartments
- Pennies 5 project (Patrick Hamilton) - 21 looking to go to Harris Street Park, to Munn Road
- Aim to reduce speed limit from 55 to 45 which would be safer around the school and park

School district collaboration opportunity: CSHACS are required to have community representatives - Dr. Dave is on York School District CSHAC; he is offering free consultation to help with priorities and bring in strong public health voice; he offered to coordinate a meeting with 4 school districts superintendents; could discuss nicotine addiction and bike racks

School bike & scooter infrastructure needs
- 200 bikes and scooters at Masons Bend - 100 bikes on lawn; need bike racks
- Ask Joe Romenick to look into bike racks
- Couchenour will get pictures of Masons Bend
- Get pictures from all the FMSD schools with bicycles; share with Town of Fort Mill

TCPD podcast on ebikes and bike & scooter safety: Protect & Connect podcast

Other contacts

- Steve Allen Catawba COG - potential funding for Hunter Street Elementary in City of York
- Erin Pratt, new Town of Fort Mill engineer
- Nan Robinson, Rock Hill Bike Club did bike rodeos with task force in past - bicycle motivation
- Barry Maddox, SCDOT Transportation Engineer

Future opportunities:

- 7/1/2026 Dr. Dave could contact the government affairs task force for YC regional chamber - maybe a letter delineating the issue
- 7/1/2026 Stay apprised of potential walkability study with SC DPH in Rock Hill southside