

Talbot County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2025 at 7:30 a.m.
Talbot County Community Center

I. Welcome and Introductions

Members Present: Bob Burgner, Howard Callahan, Frank Carollo, Sr., Bob DeGour, Ava Ellett, Heather Grant, Ed Heikes Sr., Mike Owens

County Council Liaison: Pete Leshner

Staff: Emily Gilmer, Kristen Goller, Brennan Tarleton, Cassandra Vanhooser

Members Absent: Lt. James (J.R.) Dobson, Jessica Lister, Phil Starkey

Guests: Ted Bautz, Althy Dulin

II. Approval of Minutes – April 29, 2025

Minutes from the April 29, 2025, meeting were distributed in advance via email for review. Mr. DeGour made a motion to approve the minutes without edits, which was seconded by Mr. Callahan. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved.

III. Development of Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

As a follow-up to the April 29, 2025, meeting, Ms. Grant made a presentation and shared a draft scope of work for a Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. These documents were prepared by those who volunteered to be a part of a working group and included Ms. Grant, Mr. DeGour, Mr. Leshner, and Ms. Vanhooser.

As a next step, Ms. Grant explained that a calendar hold has been placed on the June 10 Talbot County Council agenda. Should BPAC members vote to move forward, a formal request will be made to the Talbot County Council to pursue a Safe Street for All Federal Grant in the amount of \$300,000, which the county would need to support with a 20% match of cash or in-kind funds. The grant deadline is June 26, 2025.

Robust discussion ensued with several questions from BPAC members. Mr. Burgner made a motion that the committee move forward, seeking approval from Talbot County Council to pursue a \$300,000 Safe Streets for All Grant to fund a Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Plan, with the understanding that a 20% match is required of cash and/or in-kind funds. Mr. DeGour seconded this motion. The motion passed with Mr. Callahan and Mr. Heikes Sr. opposing.

Mr. Callahan confirmed that the request to the County Council would be made at the 5 p.m. meeting of the Talbot County Council on Tuesday, June 10. After answering in the affirmative, Mr. Leshner noted that he would attempt to brief fellow council members as soon as tonight and that the request would fall under the County Manager's report on the agenda.

IV. Committee Bylaws

Ms. Vanhooser has drafted bylaws. Due to time, she will share these via email, and they will be discussed further at the next BPAC meeting.

V. Board Member Comments

None were made.

VI. Public Comments

Ms. Dulin expressed hope that the committee will respect the rights of private property owners. She also expressed disappointment that the Maryland Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) has not addressed a letter sent by her regarding a portion of rails. She then summarized research findings related to the letter sent.

VII. Next Meeting

Ms. Vanhooser will post documents and all relevant materials online:
<https://www.talbotworks.org/bike-and-pedestrian-advisory-committee/>

The next meeting was set for 7:30 a.m. on July 22, 2025, at the Talbot County Community Center. In the interim, Mr. Burgner and Mr. Carollo volunteered to join the working group that will oversee the Safe Streets for All grant submission, should it receive approval by council to submit.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Grant made a call to adjourn the meeting, which was approved.