

**Talbot County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 9, 2025 at 7:30 a.m.**  
**Talbot County Community Center**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Grant called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m.

**Members Present:** Bob DeGour, Lt. James (J.R.) Dobson, Ava Ellett, Heather Grant, Jessica Lister, Phil Starkey

**County Council Liaison:** Pete Leshner

**Staff:** LaDarian Blake, Elisa Deflaux, Kristen Goller, Cassandra Vanhooser

**Members Absent:** Bob Burgner, Howard Callahan, Frank Carollo, Sr., Ed Heikes Sr., Mike Owens

**Guests:** Althy Dulin, Mike Murtaugh

**II. Approval of Minutes – July 22, 205**

Minutes from July 22, 2025, were distributed in advance via email for review. Mr. DeGour made a motion to approve the minutes without edits, which was seconded by Mr. Starkey. With no further discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**III. Dashboard Update with Andrew Burnish**

Before introducing Mr. Burnish, Ms. Grant announced that, since the last meeting, there has been no further response regarding the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant application. She then introduced Mr. Burnish, senior planner, KFH Group, and adjunct professor at George Washington University. Mr. Burnish joined via Zoom and shared an [interactive dashboard](#) he created for the group. The dashboard utilizes existing public data from the Maryland State Police and [Maryland Highway Safety Office](#) to reflect reported crashes within Talbot County from January 2019 through December 3, 2025.

Mr. Burnish walked the group through the two different components of the dashboard. The first depicts reported crashes within Talbot County and can be viewed through various layers. One such layer allows viewers to see non-motorized accidents, of which there are 120. The second allows viewers to mark specific locations they view as potentially dangerous.

Lt. Dobson inquired as to how frequently the data would be updated. Mr. Burnish said that updates are not automatic so a manual push will be required. Other models he works with are updated quarterly. Lt. Dobson clarified that the crashes shown only reflect those where a written report was generated. For some of these accidents, an investigation may be ongoing so he would consider less frequent updates such as 9 to 12 months. To this point, Mr. Leshar asked if the dashboard solely relies on already existing public data, and Mr. Burnish replied affirmatively.

Mr. DeGour reported that he met with Mark Mulligan, a bicycle safety instructor, regarding dangerous intersections. Based on Mr. Mulligan's research, the intersection of Dutchmans Lane and Route 50 has seen a fair number of accidents. Mr. Burnish directed his dashboard to this intersection, where the committee could see a cluster of accidents. Mr. DeGour asked how AI or other emerging technologies could assist in locating dangerous intersections and solving. Lt. Dobson explained that while traffic cameras are installed on the lights at this intersection, they are not recording or taking photographs. The cameras strictly monitor traffic and assist with light transitions from green to red. He suggested that Mr. DeGour's research be brought to the attention of State Highway Administration (SHA) to determine what, if any efforts could be taken to enhance safety. Ms. Grant elaborated that the vision for this committee and the Safe Streets for All grant is to bring attention to dangerous areas and find solutions to enhance safety.

Ms. Ellett shared a recent experience in Trappe that opened a conversation as to how "near miss" accidents could be represented on the dashboard. Ms. Grant suggested these locations be added through the pin drop component. The dashboard is still in development so Mr. Burnish invited the committee to explore and provide feedback prior to its finalization. Ms. Grant noted that the group can discuss a plan for release at a future meeting.

Before moving on, Ms. Grant asked Mr. Burnish to pull up the Traffic Stress layer that is included on the dashboard. This data comes from the [Maryland Department of Transportation](#) (MDOT). It measures and scores every road in Maryland for bicycle safety. The scoring runs 0 to 5, with 0 being the most bicycle-friendly. Mr. Burnish also shared the [Maryland State Transportation Trails Strategic Plan](#), which shows connectivity of trails throughout the state.

Interactive Dashboard:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/edced98679774048b93db5333290b807>

### **III. Review of Proposed Bylaws**

Ms. Grant reviewed comments received on the bylaws draft previously circulated. She will polish the draft based on feedback received. Ms. Vanhooser noted that the path forward requires the committee to recommend adoption of the bylaws to the Talbot County Council. Mr. Leshar would then request his fellow council members consider the bylaws for formal adoption. Since a quorum was not present at today's meeting, an email vote will be solicited in January. Ms. Vanhooser noted that for the vote to close, all

members must participate. This would then allow Ms. Leshner to request council review in February, working towards adoption by March.

Draft of Bylaws:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jzULKRVS6yqURc\\_yQRbVAVYn-SaOEDf4jBEYIFgc25o/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jzULKRVS6yqURc_yQRbVAVYn-SaOEDf4jBEYIFgc25o/edit?usp=sharing)

#### **IV. Board Member Comments**

None were made.

#### **V. Public Comments**

Ms. Dulin requested and was granted permission to distribute copies of the Maryland State Rail Plan 1981-83. She asked the committee to consider underlying property rights of landowners along proposed rail trails.

Mr. Starkey relayed that he recently met with Mr. Tom Mackay (MDOT) as the state does have plans to proceed with a rail trail in Queen Anne's that would connect Tuckahoe State Park with Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe. Once completed, it would create a loop. Mr. Mackay has and is scheduling meetings with the major property owners along the line. For those meetings that have occurred, Ms. Mackay has brought deeds, confirming property rights. Ms. Dulin asked if copies of those deeds could be made publicly available. She asked if Mr. Mackay has replied to the committee's invite to attend a future meeting. Ms. Grant noted that MDOT's report is expected to be completed in the Spring, so they are considering dates for Ms. Mackay to attend in the future.

#### **VI. Next Meeting**

Ms. Vanhooser will post documents and all relevant materials online:

<https://www.talbotworks.org/bike-and-pedestrian-advisory-committee/>

Ms. Grant will distribute a proposed 2026 meeting schedule.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Lt. Dobson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. DeGour and approved by all.