

Talbot County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2026, at 7:30 a.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Grant called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Members Present: Bob Burgner, Howard Callahan, Bob DeGour, Lt. James (J.R.) Dobson, Ava Ellett, Heather Grant, Ed Heikes Sr., Jessica Lister, Brian Naranjo, Phil Starkey

Members Absent: Mike Owens

County Council Liaison: Pete Leshner

Staff: Elisa Deflaux, Emily Gilmer, Kristen Goller, Cassandra Vanhooser

Guests: Ted Bautz, Althea Dulin, and Mike Murtagh

II. Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2026

Minutes from the January 27, 2026, meeting were distributed via email for review in advance of the meeting. Mr. DeGour made a motion to approve the minutes without edits, which was seconded by Mr. Dobson. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Application Update

Ms. Vanhooser relayed that a grant agreement is being drafted and an oversight committee has been established. Anyone is welcome to join the committee, which currently includes Ms. Vanhooser, Ms. Grant, and Mr. Leshner from the committee along with county employees, Ms. Goller, Ms. Weisman, and retiree Mr. Murtagh. The acceptance process could take up to a year. The county has five years to complete the scope of work.

III. Guest Speaker: Steve Cohoon, Public Facilities Planner, Queen Anne Department of Public Works

Mr. Cohoon oversaw the development of Queen Anne's County's Bike and Pedestrian Plan in 2024. He shared their process and summarized results. Over the course of one year, Queen Anne's County worked with Kimley-Horn to complete a master plan at a cost of \$110,000. The five-step process included an evaluation of existing conditions, collection of public input, development of route recommendations, prioritization of route recommendations and drafting of the master plan.

Mr. Cohoon ended by sharing recommendations the committee could consider as it undertakes its own master planning process. A tighter scope at the launch of the project might allow a deeper dive into specific portions of trail segments, whereas the Queen Anne's County plan took a macro approach. Mr. Cohoon suggested the plan be drafted with future grant opportunities in mind. He's had to scour his own plan pulling information for applications, but if it had been organized differently, he could pull directly by chapter.

The Queen Anne's County plan has helped move work forward on their trail system. After council adopted the plan, two grants were secured, totaling \$180,000 and allowing for the completion of two feasibility studies.

Mr. Cohoon fielded questions from the committee. The complete Queen Anne's County Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan is available [online](#).

IV. Review and Approval of Bylaws

A working draft of bylaws was shared previously and has since been reviewed by the county attorney. Ms. Lister made a motion that the bylaws be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeGour before being approved unanimously.

V. Committee Assignments

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Vanhooser shared a summary of committees and their current members. This was reviewed, and all members were encouraged to join a committee. An updated list of members is below.

Data Committee

Purpose: Provide the information needed to understand risk, track progress, and guide safety decisions for people walking and biking.

Duties: tracking key crash and injury indicators; supporting development and maintenance of a public safety dashboard; and using findings to inform priorities and recommendations.

Current Volunteers: Heather Grant, Bob DeGour, and Ava Ellett

Grants Committee

Purpose: Support successful implementation of the Safe Streets and Roads for All federal grant.

Duties: monitoring grant milestones; reviewing consultant work products and engagement activities; supporting coordination among partners and agencies; and translating grant outcomes into actionable next steps.

Current Volunteers: Heather Grant, Jessica Lister, Pete Lesher, Kristen Goller, Mike Murtagh, Jean Weisman, Steve Cohoon, Emily Gilmer, and Cassandra Vanhooser

Education Committee

Purpose: Promote safer travel through public awareness and education.

Duties: identifying priority audiences and safety topics; developing and supporting education and outreach efforts; coordinating with schools, community groups, and partners; and evaluating effectiveness to refine messaging.

Current Volunteers: Frank Carullo, J.R. Dobson, Heather Grant, Bob DeGour, and Mike Owens.

VI. Officer Elections

In compliance with the newly approved by-laws, officer elections were held. Mr. DeGour nominated Ms. Grant for chair, which was seconded by Mr. Dobson and approved unanimously. Mr. DeGour nominated Jessica Lister for vice chair after Mr. Heikes shared that he would prefer not to continue in the role. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dobson and approved by all.

VII. Comments from the Board

Mr. DeGour asked to revisit safety concerns at certain Route 50 intersections. After discussion, Mr. DeGour motioned to refer the issue to the Talbot County Council so that it can be escalated to the State of Maryland. This was seconded by Mr. Burgner and passed. From the audience, Mr. Murtagh suggested inviting the State's district engineer to a future meeting. Mr. Dobson will notify the Town of Easton of the committee's concerns as the intersections are located within town limits.

VIII. Comments from the Public

Ms. Dulin presented research she's completed related to land holdings connected to MDOT's proposed bridge replacement over Route 404.

IX. Next Meeting

Ms. Grant reviewed the 2026 meeting schedule, which includes July 28 and October 27. Additional meetings may be added, if needed.

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

X. Adjournment

Mr. Owens made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. DeGour and approved unanimously at 8:50 a.m.