

1. Meeting Materials

There is no agenda available for this meeting. Please review the minutes.

Documents:

[WCAG REPORT 5-8-2025 MINUTE 05-08-2025 \(PDF\).PDF](#)

CONNECTING Chesapeake Beach



Walkable Community Advisory Group (WCAG)

5/8/2025

Meeting Date: N/A

Kickoff Meeting: TBD (expected to begin in June)

I Ongoing Projects and Efforts

1. The following projects are with staff for action and are included in the WCAG report for the purpose of tracking:
 - A. Chesapeake Village Sidewalk to Beach Elementary School (BES): This project is funded under the Capital Improvements line item in the budget. The project is being tracked on the Town Administrator's report and the Town Engineer's report. A 30% design and other documents can be found on the town website. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Highway Administration (SHA) is in place for a state grant-funded (80% State/ 20% Town cost share) sidewalk design project. A grant for the construction phase of the project can be pursued once the 100% sidewalk design is complete. SHA is waiting for the Town to submit an updated RFP with requested information. The most recent update from the Town Administrator at the time of this report is as follows: The Town is working to submit the updated RFP by 5/12.
 - B. Boardwalk Connector, 261 across from the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department: This project is not funded or prioritized. A feasibility study, an alignment document, and a cost estimate can be found on the town website. Further coordination will be required with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and SHA. The WCAG will evaluate how this project should be prioritized and next steps.
 - C. Safe Crossings/Pedestrian Safety throughout town: Kim Tran from SHA is in communication with the Town and the WCAG. She confirmed that she will coordinate with the Town to advance efforts to improve safety on Rt. 261 in the coming months. Date/Time TBD.

2. The following efforts that will impact WCAG projects require staff action and are included in the WCAG report for the purpose of tracking:
 - A. Submit MDOT Priority Letters: Priority letters are due to the State on May 16th. Town Administrator update as of this report: The Town Planner has submitted a letter to the County Commissioners with our requests. Laura has requested that a copy of the letter be included in the Town Administrators Report for the May 15th meeting.
 - B. Include Railway Trail projects in the Program Open Space document: The Town Administrator is working with the County on this. State and Federal funding for Program Open Space has been cut significantly, but the program remains intact. Projects of this type have historically received strong funding support from the State. Please thank our local conservation group, the American Chestnut Land Trust, and other advocates for their very successful self-initiated campaign to preserve this important program during recent government audits and legislative sessions. Laura has requested that a copy of the final Program Open Space submission be included in the Town Administrator's report as an Agenda item for the May 15th meeting.
 - C. Renew Sustainable Community Designation: The recertification application is due in 2026. Town staff is leading the effort to complete the application in coordination with the Green Team.
 - D. Restore Habitat Protections on Calvert County and Maryland State maps: The Town Administrator update as of this report is as follows: The Town Planner has spoken with here colleagues and they confirmed that habitat protections are on County and State maps.
 - E. Support Rural Legacy Designation for Fishing Creek Watershed: The Town Planner will take the lead on this. The WCAG will assist with advocacy for the 2026 Rural Legacy application as needed.
 - F. Preserve and Secure the 200+ acre FIDS property: This can be accomplished through development negotiations and agreements.
3. The following efforts are being conducted by Laura in anticipation of future projects.
 - A. Review of Previous Efforts: Information related to efforts undertaken by the previous administration is being collected and will be presented to the WCAG for prioritization into future committee work. Some known efforts relate to wayfaring signs and interactive QR Code products, the development of pedestrian maps, landscape enhancements along existing walkways, and functional enhancements along existing walkways. Further discussion related to these initiatives is planned.
 - B. Market Research: Laura has engaged with local companies to determine potential next steps for advancing Railway Trail projects and other walkability concepts identified in the Connectivity Study and the Comprehensive Plan. This feedback was used to propose bicycle/pedestrian projects for inclusion into the County Program Open Space submission to the State. Additionally, feedback from various sources was used to develop budget line-item requests to support the endorsed Program Open Space projects.

- C. Land Preservation and Land Management Research: Laura continues to engage with local companies and organizations to discuss preservation resources, land management plans, best practices, and opportunities for collaboration.
- D. Budget line items requested:
 - Railway Trail Design/Build Open Space Grant Project
 - Signs and Wayfaring Projects (WCAG)
 - Boardwalks, Sidewalks, Railway Trail maintenance
 - Kayak Launch Installation
 - Grant Match Acquisition Projects/Acquisition Opportunities
- E. Engagement with SHA: Laura spoke with SHA on 4/30 and 5/7 to receive updates and discuss next steps related to the sidewalk project from Chesapeake Village to Beach Elementary School and other projects related to safety improvements along Rt. 261.
- F. Volunteer Outreach: In-Progress. Great response so far!

II Upcoming Activities

- A. Volunteer outreach- Volunteers who submitted interest forms were contacted in April, and communication/one-on-one calls with interested volunteers is ongoing. A meeting date will be set in June. There will be plenty of opportunities for different types of participation and citizen leadership, and the committee will be designed to reflect the strengths and interests of the volunteers. Volunteers may join the committee at any time. Please reach out to Laura or fill out a Town Committee Sign-Up Form if interested.
- B. Engagement with vendors- Laura will continue to engage with local companies to determine the best approach for advancing walkability projects. Ideally, the Town will publish an RFP to solicit a vendor to provide the following services: conduct outreach and provide mid-level designs for community supported Railway Trail expansion projects; develop a “road map” for implementing a bicycle/pedestrian master plan; create products for grant applications. This will all be dependent on allocating the necessary funds in the FY 26 Capital budget (funds to support these initiatives were not included in the first draft budget provided to Council, but have been requested).
- C. Engagement with SHA- Laura will continue to engage with SHA and will coordinate for a strategy meeting in coming months.
- D. Kick-Off Meeting: Date and time will be based on volunteer availability.

Report Submitted by:

Councilwoman Laura R. Blackwelder

