

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Location: Remote Meeting via Cisco Webex Video Conferencing
Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Committee Members in Attendance: Ken Comer (At-Large) (Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), James Albright (Mason), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), Stiven Foster (Providence), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Debby Cohen (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders Association), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Mark Tipton (Fairfax Council of Community Associations)

Committee Members Absent: Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Dyami Pipkin (Lee), Andrea Reese (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority)

Staff in Attendance: Chris Wells, David Loss

Others in attendance: None

Call to Order: This remote meeting, the ninth since Governor Northam's State of Emergency declaration of 12 March, 2020 prohibited all in-person gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was called to order by Ken Comer (Chair) at 7:00 p.m. This is the fourth remote meeting using Cisco Webex video conferencing. Mr. Comer then read the recitals required under Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, the uncodified Fairfax County Board of Supervisors emergency ordinance adopted on 14 April, 2020, and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3700 to - 3714) pertaining to meetings that must be conducted remotely during a declared State of Emergency as being essential to the continuity of government. As required by the legal guidance, Mr. Comer introduced a motion, which was seconded, that this meeting is required for conducting an essential governmental function and must be conducted remotely. He requested that the motion be approved by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved. Mr. Comer next conducted a roll call to determine which members, staff, and other participants were in attendance and that every member, staff, and other participants could hear every other attendee clearly. Following this roll call and determining that a quorum was reached, Mr. Comer moved that the committee confirm that every participant could hear every other participant clearly. The motion was seconded; Mr. Comer called for approval by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: There were no meetings in April or May, 2020, as a result of the governor's State of Emergency declaration. February, June, July August, September, October, November, and December 2020 and January 2021 meeting minutes will need to be approved at a later date.

New Business: Continuing an item tabled at the January meeting, the committee discussed the duties of the secretary, a position required by the committee charter. Basically, there are two duties: 1) to ensure that minutes are taken (it was indicated that while using Webex, the recording serves as a record of the meeting), and 2) take attendance. Beth Iannetta (FCPA) volunteered to serve as secretary. Accordingly, a motion was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation to appoint Ms. Iannetta as the incumbent secretary for 2021.

Wade Smith (Dranesville) raised the issue of attendance and stated that there is an expectation that members will attend all meetings, absent a good reason. He proposed that a member who could not attend should let the secretary know and provide the reason. James Albright (Mason) stated that he was not comfortable with requiring a reason be given in advance for non-attendance. Debbie Cohen (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board) asked whether organizations or supervisors are notified if their representative doesn't show up. Staff answered that there are no exact procedures for that type of notification. Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon) asked if there were any vacant committee seats. Staff replied that all seats are now filled.

Staff Report: David Loss reported on the following items:

- The Bike-Friendly Community Application was submitted on time
- Bike Share: grants have been received to expand the program (federal money) which will result in 19 new bikes for the Reston Town Center and Wiehle Avenue Metro. Bikes have been received. Vienna/Merrifield will get 10 bikes; bikes are on back-order

James Albright (Mason) stated that his district is getting nothing from this grant. The staff response was that locations were stipulated in the grant (i.e., around mass transit). It is FCDOT's intention to expand beyond the Tysons/Reston/Merrifield footprint with future grants, perhaps building off the Arlington County/City of Alexandria network. It is possible that the City of Fairfax and the Towns of Vienna and Herndon might set up their own Bike Share programs. Mr. Albright mentioned Bailey's Crossroads and Seven Corners as logical places for Bike Share facilities in Mason District.

Chris Wells reported that the VDOT 2021 paving project was in planning. This will enable FCDOT to nominate streets for bike lanes, crosswalks, etc. FCDOT will set up meetings with supervisors and will let the committee know of the selected streets when the contract is signed. Mr. Wells pointed out that FCDOT installs crosswalk signs when VDOT installs the crosswalks. Stiven Foster (Providence) asked via chat whether VDOT coordinates with FCDOT on shared use paths. The answer was that VDOT does only main corridors and FCDOT doesn't necessarily coordinate with VDOT on these facilities. Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon) asked whether VDOT modifies intersection

markings (e.g., turn radius, share-the-road markings, etc.). The staff answer was “yes” and Telegraph Road was given as an example.

Ken Comer (At-large/Chair) noted that Braeburn Road (Braddock District) had recently been restriped for a bike lane, but subsequently the bike lane was torn up for utility work and was left unrepaired for some time, creating a safety issue. Chris Wells said he would pass it on to VDOT. It is the contractor responsibility, so VDOT has to monitor and get the contractor to do it.

Chris Wells provided updates on the I-66 OTB project: Blake Lane at I-66 is coming together. He announced a meeting on February 24 to discuss off-corridor bike infrastructure work at Nutley/Vienna Metro. It is possible that this work won't be done by the completion of the main I-66 trail; perhaps a temporary facility will be put into place on Virginia Parkway and Country Creek Road to 'shrink' the road to allow a cycle track to be installed (behind Jersey barriers). Beth Iannetta (FCPA) reported that FCPA was at the 95% design review stage trails in FCPA land.

Chris reported on the following:

- I-495 NEXT, namely, that Maryland was making progress on planning for toll lanes and an expanded American Legion Bridge, so a bike path over the Potomac there is possible in the future. Other information regarding trails along the interstate and connecting to it were discussed
- Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): working on designs for cycle tracks and sidewalks on both sides of Route 1. This is a 15-year, \$55 million dollar project to improve transit services including ped/cycling assets
- Accident statistics: Route 1 is highest in pedestrian “crashes” (72) and Little River Turnpike is third (42)
- Route 1 from Huntington to Gunston Road is in the VDOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) under the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). FCDOT/VDOT are working together on safety improvements on Route 1:
 - Revising signal timing
 - Improved signage
 - High-visibility and additional crosswalks
 - “No turn on red” at certain locations
 - Speed limit study (funded by FCDOT) to be completed by 1Q22

Shawn Newman (FABB) raised the issue of the proposed intersection project at Guinea Road and Little River Turnpike in Braddock District. It will allow free right-hand turning from northbound Guinea to eastbound Little River Turnpike. This creates a problem for cyclists and pedestrians trying to cross Guinea in both directions at that location, per Mr. Newman. Mr. Wells said that normally these types of turn lanes are not signalized (i.e., to allow pedestrians to cross). The project was envisioned to move cars through that intersection and reduce/eliminate cut-through traffic in nearby residential neighborhoods. Ken Comer (At-large/Chair) stated that a similar project at northbound Burke Lake Road and eastbound Braddock Road (in Braddock District) had the effect of eliminating any bike/ped crossing at that intersection

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.