

**Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 12, 2022 at 7:06 p.m.**

**Location: Remote Meeting via Cisco Webex Video Conferencing**

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Note Taker: Jim Klein

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Wade H.B. Smith (Dranesville), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), Erin Partlan (Lee) – *new member*, James Albright (Mason), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Elizabeth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority)

**Committee Members Absent:**

*Vacant* (Providence), *Vacant* (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), Michael Depue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Karl Liebert (Springfield)

**Others in attendance:**

Chris Wells (FCDOT), David Loss (FCDOT)

**Call to Order:** This remote meeting used Cisco Webex video conferencing. Mr. Comer 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:**

Minutes of outstanding meetings forthcoming at next meeting.

### **Staff Report and Discussion:**

- **Active Fairfax Plan** (Chris Wells) – A brief project overview was provided for new members in attendance. He noted that Phase 2 is now funded to address opportunities and challenges, update and combine maps, gather more community input; develop policies for Comprehensive Plan. A contract extension is under negotiation with one consideration being the need to address the 35 activity centers which have greater detail in Comprehensive Plan such as cross sections; Phase 2 is expected to be a 12–18-month process. FCDOT staff will report back to BOS Transportation Committee on February 1, 2022, on the “Safe Streets for All (SSFA)” program recommendations; next step is to prioritize 60 or so recommendations in SSFA into immediate (with no budget needed) and next year (where budget support is needed for FY 2024). The program is expected to be endorsement by the Board of Supervisors in Spring. The transportation Needs and Demands Analysis Map from Phase 1 – needs further analysis with three scenarios to ground truth and test relative to One Fairfax policies.
- **Transform I-66 Outside the Beltway Trail Update** (Chris Wells) - Chris Wells provided an overview and update of the proposed trail segments being implemented through the I-66 corridor. Off corridor wayfinding signs not originally programmed, but County is committed to funding wayfinding for off-corridor (engineering design has funding, but implementation will be done as funding is available and by priority). A question was raised about I-66 pedestrian tunnels regarding responsibility for cleaning and policing tunnels being constructed by the project. Chris Wells noted that underpasses are designed with lighting and drainage but he not aware of perpetual maintenance agreement other than standard operating procedures. The toll lane operator has maintenance responsibility for toll lanes. He assumes trail maintenance would fall to VDOT for all other facilities. Access points designed into trail for Fairfax County police access and as maintenance access for I-66 lighting, electric, etc.

### **Presentation:**

- **Prince William County (PWC) Interjurisdictional Trail Connectivity** (Karen Ampeh) - As discussed, the lack of trail planning was a wakeup call when PWC lost out on I-66 trail related improvement. A request to meet with PWC government to talk about interjurisdictional connectivity; could not remember any previous meetings and coordination. The PWC mobility chapter for Comprehensive Plan, staff and trail advocated are working on twenty-year aspirational trail plan by June 2022. Any feedback would be appreciated. The PW Trails & Blueways council is counterpart to this committee with Mount Vernon District and Sully District as the primary connection areas with some Springfield.

### **Staff Report:**

- Upcoming presentation for the Parking Reimagined project. The project coordinator will be at the TSB committee in February. Currently bicycle parking is not a requirement only a guideline. This effort may change that.

**New/Active/Unresolved Issues:**

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Funding - Shawn Newman led a discussion of SRTS funding for Fairfax County Public Schools. Federal funding ends at end of school year and School Board is considering funding now, but not in current markup. The school budget hearing is scheduled on January 24, 2022. He requested that TSB committee draft a letter and send as input in support of funding. The Board's Transportation Advisory Commission is also considering input on this budget item. To clarify, the School Board makes all decisions on school funding not the Board of Supervisors. Chris Wells noted contributions and success of position within SRTS program to identify safety issues and educate students about safe walking and biking to schools. The SRTS coordinator position serves to represent schools in coordination with County, who is responsible for infrastructure improvements related to Safe Routes to Schools and other safety improvements near schools. The committee questioned whether this committee could write letter to School Board. Chris Wells pointed out that traditionally TSB serves the BOS and communicates directly to BOS; but could put out a position paper or other means of communicating TSB viewpoints.

**Motion (Shawn Newman):** Moved that the committee review a draft letter to the BOS, copied to School Board, encouraging them to continue funding for a Safe Route to Schools Coordinator position, for review and circulation to TSB members prior to next meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

- Wade Smith discussed need for addressing pedestrian and bicycle facilities connecting to and in anticipation of new trail across American Legion Bridge; recommended looking at original plan to extend Mt. Vernon Trail northward done at an earlier time and would like to add to agenda item for upcoming meetings
- Jim Klein thanked VDOT and FCDOT for excellent work creating 3' of minimum bikeable shoulders on Fort Hunt Road as part of repaving by restriping and shoulder work.

**Citizen comments/Question & Answer Period:** (if any)

- None

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