



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

February 8, 2023, 7:05 p.m.

Room 8, Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Pkwy

Fairfax, VA 22035

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

Note Taker: Beth Iannetta

Members Present: * denotes remote participation

Ken Comer (At Large/Chair), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Erin Parlan (Franconia District), Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), * Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/Vice-Chair), * Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society)

Members Absent:

Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Soledad Portilla (Northern Virginia Builder's Industry Association), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), James Albright (Mason District)

Others in Attendance: Nicole Wynands (FCDOT) Tom Burke (FCDOT), Mr. Evan Wiener, resident

Call meeting to order & Remote Participation: Ken Comer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

In accordance with County policy for one-time remote participation of members, a quorum of the Committee being physically present at Room 8, Fairfax County Government Center, the following motions were made, seconded, and approved in the order given below:

1. That the Committee approve the Policy for Participation in Meetings by Electronic Communication in light of the current situation;
2. That each remote participant's voice is clear, audible and at an appropriate volume for the meeting room and their location is confirmed, and

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3. That pursuant to the Policy for Participation in Meetings by Electronic Communication, remote participant Robert Cosgriff (Braddock District and Vice-chair) (temporary medical condition preventing attendance), calling from his respective home, be permitted to participate remotely in this meeting and that such physical absence from the meeting comports with the policy just adopted.

Review/approval of November 2022, December 2022, and January 2023 minutes: Ms.

Iannetta previously distributed the draft minutes and noted she received comments via email from Erin Partlan and Katie McDaniels. Mr. Newman requested a comment be added regarding approval of the pedestrian safety letter was deferred. Mr. Albers noted a spelling error for Irving School. **Ms. Iannetta made a motion to approve the draft minutes as amended. The motion, seconded by Ms. Ampeh, was approved.**

Presentation: Comprehensive Planning: Tom Burke, FCDOT Transportation Planning Group, provided a review of Comprehensive Planning in Fairfax County, including the transportation elements like multimodal facilities. He provided information on the history and purpose of the Comprehensive Plan. He explained the Transportation Element of the Policy Plan. He reviewed the general process of how the Comp Plan is updated and amended. Discussion and inquiries from committee members included how pedestrian and bicycles facilities are accounted for and implemented. Mr. Comer inquired about measures of effectiveness to improve the transportation network which is focused on automobiles. Ms. Wynands noted that ActiveFairfax is looking at ways to measure bicycle level of service and other additional metrics that are for other modes of travel. He showed recent examples of recent amendments, specifically the Merrifield Site Specific Plan Amendment (SSPA). Ms. Iannetta inquired if multimodal studies that now follow plan amendments if members of the TSB committee are part of those task forces or technical groups. Lorton Visioning is another example with a poor bicycle level of stress based on on-road facilities. Mr. Burke noted several upcoming or currently underway studies including Centreville Study, Fairfax Center Phase III, Judicial Complex, Lorton Visioning, Wiehle Avenue Study, Gallows Road Study, Policy Plan Update. Mr. Newman inquired if the ActiveFairfax effort has advanced enough to be included in the upcoming Policy Plan update. Ms. Wynands explained the adopted project vision and goals would be appropriate for the Policy Plan updates. Mr. Stephens felt the community outreach typically does not represent the potential users who would benefit the most from the improvements. County staff have strived to broaden participation and improve outreach. Ms. Ampeh commented that a lot of people still feel transportation is vehicle focused and pedestrians and bicyclists are an interference. She appreciates the efforts noted in the presentation.

Discussion:

- **Pedestrian safety letter follow-up from January** – Mr. Comer explained the previous draft has been amended and sent out for review. Mr. Newman recommended the last sentence of the third paragraph should be emphasized more or placed prominently. Mr.

Brooks liked the tone of the letter and felt it was good to focus on specific ways to make incremental improvements. Mr. Comer noted some typos and inquired about clarification from staff about some of the language used in the attachments. Mr. Klein noted an example of a pedestrian death in Belle Haven where a crossing on the northern leg of the intersection of Beacon Hill Rd at Route 1 could have helped. Mr. Stephens noted Chairman McKay's recent announcement of pedestrian safety as a main priority. Mr. Newman recommended approval of the letter as amended. The motion, seconded by Mr. Stephens, was approved unanimously.

- **TSB Priorities and Metrics** – Mr. Cosgriff offered a strategic vision on how to support and promote the “reimagining” of the Committee in order to fulfill its chartered purpose more efficiently and effectively. Committee members were provided with copies of a point paper with details recommended Committee priorities and new procedures for Committee/Staff interactions.

Citizen Inputs/Comments/Q&A

- Mr. Evan Wiener, Reston resident, inquired about a missing network gap on Baron Cameron Avenue. Ms. Wynands recommended he send the information to DOTinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Staff Report: (Nicole Wynands, FCDOT)

- Upcoming Events- Community Information meeting scheduled for Monday Feb 13 at 7pm virtual Ainsworth Avenue in Springfield, VA.
- The application for the Safe Streets Federal Funding was not approved in this round of applications.
- The 15 MPH speed limit proposed State Code proposed was tabled and not moved forward in the General Assembly session.
- The BOS approved two new urban design standards for street tree standards, and design guidance on the Tysons Community Circuit Trail.
- Upcoming Presentations:
 - March: Sonya Breehey, Coalition for Smarter Growth
 - April: Director Jai Cole, FCPA

Committee Member Reports / Inquiries

- Mr. Klein complimented the improvements along Fort Hunt Road, installation of speed signs, extra shoulder width, and other things that have been positive improvements.
- Mr. Newman – inquired about a list of proposed intersection improvements. Ms. Wynands noted the upcoming BOS Transportation Committee Meeting topic on March 14th for Transportation Prioritized Projects.

- Mr. Klein inquired if there is a way to fund intersection improvements along Route 1, three intersection pilot studies, request more information.
- Mr. Albers inquired about the STARS study along Route 50 and its status.
- Mr. Comer noted we are supposed to create an annual report for the committee. Mr. Cosgriff offered to compile information.
- Ms. Ampeh mentioned an email about the new FCPA Trail Manager sent to her by Bill Niedringhaus recommending people apply. She noted the focus of the job would be on natural surface trails and volunteer efforts.
- Mr. Newman inquired about two vacancies at FCDOT. Ms. Wynands stated they are in the process of hiring. She noted a new FCDOT staff member starting on Monday to support a wayfinding signage program.
- Mr. Albers inquired about BOS approval to enter into an agreement with Rapid Flashing Beacons with VDOT.
- Discussion about a new FCDOT job posting for Section Chief for ActiveFairfax section. The job should be posted in a few weeks.
- Request police presentation - Ms. Ampeh gave an example of a traffic enforcement incident where law enforcement tried to cite the pedestrian even though the law had been repealed; effort to protect the driver.
- Mr. Albers recommended a Safe Routes to School presentation
- Mr. Comer suggested a VDOT representative for pedestrian/bicycle

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM