

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting – 7 PM, July 14, 2021

Location: FCDOT Office, 4050 Legato Road, Fairfax VA 22033

Web Site: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Note-Taker: Karl Liebert

Committee Members in Attendance:

Robert Cosgriff (Braddock / Vice-Chair), Dyami Pipkin (Lee), Stiven Foster (Providence), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Karen Ampeh (Sully), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Deborah Cohen, (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Shawn Newman (Fairfax County Alliance for Better Bicycling), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association)

Committee Members Absent:

Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Wade H. B. Smith (Dranesville), Alexander Rough (Hunter Mill), James Albright (Mason), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Soledad Portilla (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), Vacant (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority)

Others in Attendance: Stephanie Piperno (Capital Trails Coalition); Peter Gray (WABA)

Call to Order: The in-person meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Robert Cosgriff, Vice-Chair.

Agenda and Discussion Topics:

Presentation: Stephanie Piperno, from the Capital Trails Coalition (CTC) and Peter Gray, from WABA, were in attendance to summarize the CTC Trail Network Map.

- a. CTC is an organization under the WABA umbrella that seeks to build out a network of trails available to all users. It comprises six jurisdictions in the Metro DC area.
- b. Priority for Fairfax County is Rt 50 corridor which has been started (though not up to standards), but the big gap is a pedestrian bridge over I-495.
- c. WABA wanted to make sure Stephanie's contact info is available to the committee for questions and support.
- d. CTC is waiting to incorporate FCDOT input until after ActiveFairfax has matured. Current Fairfax data is from existing plans and GIS layers.
- e. CTC is funded by an REI grant. It does not directly fund projects.
- f. CTC has advocated for projects applying for grants from other organizations.
- g. Prince George's County (MD) has the largest mileage of trails to complete and has been made a priority for support.
- h. Some jurisdictions have put forth resolutions to try and complete priority projects by 2025. Stephanie will share an example of such a resolution from PGC via Chris Wells.
- i. Federal money is available if projects are identified. (earmarks, transportation bills, etc.). FCDOT has submitted two projects this year: I-66 Trail and Sunrise Valley. Hopefully FCDOT can be more prepared with projects during next iteration of funding applications.

Staff Report:

- **Capital Bikeshare Expansion:** (map available on web site); Reston (4 stations, 15 more planned) Received approval from VDOT to expand in Vienna and Merrifield as well as Dun Loring; Expect 29 new stations by next year; A station includes approximately 12 bike docks; Bikeshare usage declined sharply at the start of the pandemic (March 2020) but has been rebounding in the spring/summer of 2021 with a big increase in casual trips by non-members. A rebound in subscriptions is expected.

Prioritization of Bikeshare expansion is according to funding, equity, and expansion of adjacent facilities.

- **ActiveFairfax** - Safe Streets for All - Board request to accelerate safety aspects of Active Fairfax. Systematic Safety plan became Safe Streets for All and was presented to the Board in June. Plan was a bullet list of priorities ranked. This would ultimately become a proposal for BOS.
- **Cinder Bed Road Bikeway** -Significant opposition to Cinder Bed Road bikeway through woods from Newington to Springfield Metro station along Long Branch Run at May public meeting. Route goes through some sensitive bogs. So, working on plans to ameliorate impact and address concerns. Lexis Glenn (Lee District representative on the Transportation Advisory Commission) contacted Dyami Pipkin (Lee District TSB Committee representative) asking the TSB Committee to advocate for the Cinder Bed trail due it being fully funded, serving Springfield Metro, serving Fort Belvoir, and serving an underserved community. FCDOT has already performed the necessary analyses. Supervisor Lusk has asked for a follow-up meeting with FCDOT and presumably the concerned environmental advocates to discuss environmental issues.
Moved and carried: Have the TSB Committee work on a draft letter to the BOS in support of the Cinder Bed Trail. Moved, seconded and carried with one abstention.
- **VDOT Restriping/paving:** gearing up for next year; Bushman crosswalk will include a crosswalk; Commonwealth Blvd restriping will include a “climbing bike lane” on the uphill and sharrows downhills. There was not enough width for bike lanes in both directions.

Citizen Comment/Questions – None

Active/Unresolved Issues:

- **Bridge over Difficult Run near Gabrielson Gardens** – Mr. Comer ultimately did not send a letter of support after the committee voted to do so. Mr. Foster proposed a motion to NOT send letter given Mr. Comer had sent correspondence informing TSB members of his hesitation but did not provide an explanation. The motion was withdrawn to get more information from the Chair regarding his concerns.
- **August 2021 Meeting** - Traditionally TSB does not have an August meeting and discussion ensued about holding a meeting or not. A motion was made to skip an August 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.
- **Upcoming Discussions/Topics for Meetings** - Beth Iannetta (FCPA)topic for September presentation on trails component of 2020 park bond showing how FCPA is creatively stretching a \$4m budget; September presentation on Safe Streets for All.
- **FCPD Coordination Follow-up** – Mr. Newman inquired about the FCPD coordination that was planned for this year which hasn’t been scheduled. Mr. Wells (FCDOT) stated the FCPD liaison, 2nd Lt Jason Long, would gladly come to talk to us. Issues to discuss could be Automated Speed Enforcement and the County officers’ understanding of approved traffic laws with respect to bicycles.
- **Retrospective:** Mr. Cosgriff is impressed with TSB accomplishments during the pandemic. We have gained an advocate in the form of Deputy County Executive, Rachel Flynn. We have sent two letters to BOS advocating safer streets along the Rt 1 corridor and the bridge over Difficult Run. We filled vacant seats. We are losing Stiven and have new members. Finally, thanks to the staff for their support throughout the year.

Adjournment: Karl Liebert moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. The motion was seconded by several committee member and approved.