

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting – 7-9pm, 8 August 2018

Location:

Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035,
Conference Room 8

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

Note-Taker: Jim Klein

Committee Members in Attendance: Representative At-Large and Chair Ken Comer, Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Stiven Foster (Providence), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Robert W. Michie (Lee), Robert Cosgriff (Braddock), Karen Ampeh (Sully), Soledad Portilla (Northern Virginia Builder's Industry Association), Tom McFarland (Fairfax County Park Authority), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society)

Chris Wells (FCDOT), Mackenzie Jarvis (FCDOT)

Committee Members Absent: Jeff Anderson (Hunter Mill), Wade H. B. Smith (Dranesville), James Albright (Mason), Chester Freedenthal (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations), Dan Iglhaut (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Chris Maimone (Washington Area Bicyclist Association),

Others in Attendance: John Stokely (FCPA), Liz Crowell (FCPA), May Ohlien (FCPA), Karen Sheffield (FCPA), Andy Galusha (FCPA), Zachary Krohmal (FCDOT), Bob Pikora (FCDOT), Sophia Fisher (FCDPZ), Caleb Lester (Supervisor McKay's office)

The meeting was called to order by Representative At-Large and Chairman Ken Comer at 7:03 pm.

Agenda and Discussion Topics

Approval of the Minutes

The meeting notes from the July 11, 2018, meeting were approved by voice vote with minor corrections and without amendment.

Presentation

Zachary Krohmal provided an overview of the previously discussed proposed plan amendments to remove Plan Amendment 2018-IV-TR1 (Huntley Meadows Park Trail From Hayfield Road To Harrison Lane) and Plan Amendment 2018-IV-BK1 (Huntley Meadows Park Path From Telegraph Road to Lockheed Boulevard).

FCPA staff presented information about the significance of Huntley Meadows Park (see presentation)
FCPA staff presented their rationale for removing the trails from the referenced plans

- Degradation of globally uncommon natural communities
- Degradation of the wetland ecology and hydrology
- Concern about high cost addressing highly regulated conditions (Section 404)
- Former military use area (need to search for unexploded munitions, etc.)

Extensive discussion regarding the need for protecting significant resources in Huntley Meadows Park and the need for the east-west trail connections that the dotted lines on the map represent.

Discussion about whether or not the trails represented on the dotted lines on a map would ever be built anyway (so why keep the lines on the map) and alternatively the desire among many committee

members to keep the east west connections represented by the dotted lines. Many committee members questioned the timing, and if the trails were not going to be built anytime soon, then why not just wait for the upcoming plan update so that all of the issues could be addressed in a more comprehensive manner.

FCPA staff indicated that the lines on the map have been on the map since the 1970s and they are out of date. Zack Krohmal indicated that the Rose Hill District Plan was the last time this issue was addressed and it kept the trails on the map noting the environmental constraints. Information will be provided via e-mail.

Caleb Lester noted that the plan amendments were moved forward from the EMBARK process since the BOS directed staff to prepare the amendments. Caleb indicated that the planned trails were no longer needed because of the pedestrian and bicycle facilities included within the EMBARK plan and the goal of network connectivity. Many committee members expressed concerns that the routes proposed in EMBARK would not serve the same east to west connectivity.

Staff Report

Bylaws to be circulated to County Attorney and submitted for the September 25 BOS meeting

TPP updated – staff has been asked to prepare schedule adjustments and defer work as needed to meet budgetary constraints.

I-66 – the scope for the off-corridor improvements has been solidified narrowing the gap between the \$7.9 million available and the total anticipated cost (now likely to be around \$15 million or less)

Rapid Flash Beacons – County will take on the maintenance of three new beacons installed. Chris Wells noted that VDOT will no longer maintain the installations. If the number of installed beacons increases beyond the FCDOT budget capacity, then they will need to revisit the issue.

VDOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan – immediate funding available to address pedestrian safety hot spots that came out of the action plan on an expedited basis.

Bikeshare – equipment ordered for Merrifield for October/November installation. Next up will be Providence District and I-66 inside the beltway sites. Supervisors Stork and McKay will meet with FCDOT to discuss Dockless opportunity at Hunting and the Route 1 Corridor on August 29. Note that the vendor that had made a proposal is pulling out of the region)

New and Other Business

The committee will develop key points about the Huntley Meadows Plan Amendment for a letter at the September meeting.

Announcements and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Upcoming Events/Other Meetings:

Title	Date	Time	Location

Upcoming Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee Meetings:

Date	Time	Location
9/12/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
10/10/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
11/14/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
12/12/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8