



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 (TSB)

September 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Room 8, Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Pkwy

Fairfax, VA 22035

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

Howard Albers, Secretary

Members Present:

Ken Comer (At Large/Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/Vice-Chair), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Jim Corcoran (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association) Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builder's Industry Association)

Members Absent:

Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District), James Albright (Mason District), Erin Parlan (Franconia District), Tyler Schiefelbein (Springfield), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Brooks Stephens (Providence District) Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society),

Others in Attendance: Ryan-Paul Johnson (FCDOT); Evan Weiner (Visitor); L. Newman (Visitor)

Call to Order: Ken Comer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

Ken Comer commented that the TSB committee needed a Secretary and asked if anybody wanted to serve in that role. Howard Albers volunteered to serve as Secretary. Being the only committee member to volunteer, Howard Albers was appointed as the committee secretary effective September 13, 2023.

Approval of Minutes: On September 1, 2023, Nicole Wynands sent committee members the draft minutes from the May, June, and July 2023 meeting. No committee meeting was held in August 2023. The minutes were discussed, and the only changes needed were typographical corrections in the Staff Report section of each of the minutes. Separate votes were taken on each set of minutes. All minutes, as corrected, were approved.

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Discussions:

Pedestrian Safety Letter Jim Klein talked about the Pedestrian Safety Letter that the committee sent to the Board of Supervisors in March 2023. Ryan-Paul Johnson said that the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) would be briefing the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee on October 17, 2023 at 3 PM. Ryan Paul had no details available to share with the committee about the items included in the TSB March letter.

Parking Reimagined No discussion was held since committee members scheduled to lead the discussion were not at the meeting.

Fort Belvoir Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Bob Cosgriff reported on the meetings he attended with the leaders of Fort Belvoir about the location of a new trail. There is some space outside of the security fence where a new trail could be located. The needed new trail will be included in the Fort Belvoir management plan that is reviewed every five years.

One Fairfax Focus Group Meeting Bob Cosgriff reported that he attended the One Fairfax focus group meeting for representatives of the county boards and commissions. Bob reminded the committee that “fairness to all” needed to be considered in all committee discussions and work products.

TSB Committee Priorities were not discussed due to the addition of new business items to be discussed at the meeting.

Braddock Road Multimodal Improvements Bob Cosgriff talked about the VDOT public meeting he attended in July about the proposed Braddock Road Improvements.

New Business

Letter of Support The committee was asked by Andrew Shelton to write a letter of support by September 29, 2023, for a Fairfax County Safe Routes to Schools application. Since the FCDOT staff did not know the details of the grant, the committee declined to write a letter of support.

TSB Website Content Shawn Newman asked the FCDOT staff to add a section to the TSB website that contains all the letters sent by the committee so they can be more easily located by county leaders, the public and the committee.

Budget Reductions Lydia Lawrence commented that by September 24, all County Departments needed to submit their FY 2025 budget requests to the County Executive. The Department submissions needed to be 7% lower than the 2024 budget. The park authority trail maintenance efforts may need to be reduced if additional funding is not provided.

Sidewalk Improvements on Newington Road Jim Klein talked about the need for sidewalk improvements on Newington Road. Since the project was on the county’s list of sidewalk improvements, the committee declined to take additional action on this project.

Trail Signage Shawn Newman stated that wayfinding of county trails continues to be an ongoing concern. The new trail at Rolling and Pohick, specifically, needs directional signs. Committee

members have previously expressed their concerns to the park authority and FCDOT trail managers, however, noticeable changes have not been noted. Ryan Paul Johnson said he will find out about the county process and plans for installing new signs.

8th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon Jim Klein announced that the ride will be held on October 21, 2023. Both the 24- and 40-mile routes will be using the closed Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway.

Staff Report

Ryan-Paul Johnson led a discussion on the **Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA)** revised guidelines for county boards and commissions. When more than two TSB committee members meet or communicate with each other it is a VFOIS public meeting. Public meetings need to have agendas and meeting minutes posted on the website. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority is hosting a Recreational Trail Summit on October 24, 2023. While three committee members will be at the summit, they agreed not to conduct TSB committee business.

Ryan-Paul Johnson said that FCDOT will be meeting with their contractor and some other agencies on September 26, 2023 to discuss the county's **Active Transportation Plan** draft trail network. No date for sharing the network map with the public has been set. The chairman commented it is helpful to know if there are points of conflict in the development of the plan and network map. The committee can aid in providing feedback and in having a coordinated recreation and transportation trail network. Questions were asked about the status of the other Active Transportation committees where the public was involved when the plan study began. Ryan-Paul said a trail tool kit, trail policies, and trail definitions were areas being discussed on September 26.

Public Comments

Evan Weiner had three comments for the committee. He asked the committee what could be done to repair the **door closer to the bike room at the Reston Wyles METRO Station**. The door slams shut and makes its use difficult. Evan asked who was responsible for **naming the new VDOT bike ped bridge** under construction in Reston. Naming the bridge after Dave Grohl, a Foo Fighters that lived in Annandale and Springfield, could play a big role in promoting safe active transportation. Evan also asked what could be done to **improve Route 7 shared use path** under construction. Bicycling on a shared use path next to traffic moving at 55 miles per hour can be stress full. He said landscaping, artwork, and other measures could be taken to improve the bicycling experience. Ryan Paul Johnson said he would refer the door maintenance concern to the agency responsible for the maintenance. Howard Albers suggested that Evan contact Heidi Mitter, the VDOT NOVA Bike Ped Coordinator for more information about the naming rights and improvements along the new sections of Route 7.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the TSB Committee on October 11, 2023.