

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2022 at 7:02 p.m.

Location: Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams Software

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

Note Taker: Beth Iannetta

Committee Members in Attendance:

Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville), Erin Partlan (Lee), James Albright (Mason), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Elizabeth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association),

Committee Members Absent:

Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), Michael Depue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), *Vacant* (Providence), *Vacant* (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board)

Others in attendance:

Davis Loss (FCDOT), Lauren Delmare (FCDOT), Chris Wells (FCDOT); Erika Christ, Mount Vernon resident/local transportation reporter, "On the Move" website

Call to Order: This remote meeting used Microsoft Teams 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: Draft minutes for the March 2022 were distributed for review and comment. No recommended edits were received, and no edits were offered at the meeting. Therefore Ms. Iannetta made a motion to approve the draft minutes. The motion, seconded by Mr. Liebert were approved by acclamation and hearing no objections

Presentation: Safe Streets for All Program Update

- Lauren Delmare, FCDOT, presented an update, including the framework of the program, history to date and next steps. FCDOT are scheduled to submit an endorsement item to the Board of Supervisors in May 2022 for approval to pursue the program as a whole not necessarily approve specific strategies. Staff will pursue additional funds to support new county staff position and program priorities in 2024 budget. Staff continues to work on the ongoing and immediate key strategies like improvements through repaving efforts, safety campaigns, and develop and implement improvements through land development process. Immediate key strategies include a Safe Streets for All Policy, recommend priority revisions to state and local policies, include an active transportation expert on consultant teams, prioritize projects in high-risk areas, high need areas and destinations, host internal trainings and annual report card on safety efforts. Reviewed the key strategies for the proposed program project manager position. Ms. Partlan inquired about the ability to report unsafe locations. Ms. Delmare stated their goal is to have something like the web dashboard used for the ActiveFairfax project to remain on the FCDOT website to collect information in the future. Ms. Iannetta inquired about the safe routes to parks recommendations and lighting. Based on the discussion she recommended funding be considered for other agency staff that are anticipated to help support the program. FCDOT staff stated that recommendations for pedestrian lighting is an ongoing discussion and will need to include coordination among county agencies. Mr. Klein inquired about a more systematic way to get curb radii reductions. Staff explained that projects must follow VDOT standards. They would like to implement a county-wide street design standards like Tysons standards to meet needs in other urbanizing areas in county. Mr. Klein commented that the street repaving on Fort Hunt was great, but other project areas VDOT could not address the curb radii through repaving. Mr. Newman asked about any opportunity for public input regarding lighting issues and he recommended DPWES staff discuss the issues with TSB. Mr. Wells explained a Board of Supervisors (BOS) policy for lighting pedestrian facilities has not been moved forward as a program or a policy. FCDOT could follow up with DPWES on the topic. Mr. Comer asked for clarification on safe routes to school program and associated position funding letter to BOS from TSB. He felt the two efforts were not being coordinated or potentially working at cross purposes. FCDOT stated that both positions should be funded and should be synergistic as they complement one another and are both critical. Mr. Klein followed up on the Route 1 corridor safety issues and how it fits into the priorities and coordinates with this initiative. Staff explained the program creates a framework to address safety issues in a wholistic manner. However, interim and corridor specific solutions can still be addressed through other means.

Staff Report:

- **Vacant Committee Seats** – FCDOT staff followed up with the respective agencies. They are aware of the vacancies, but they do not have potential member nominations at this time.
- **Burke Centre VRE** – A ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Burke Centre VRE Connector Phase IV bicycle and pedestrian project on March 20, 2022.
- **Rolling Road Widening** – FCDOT staff shared the proposed cross sections from the VDOT project; VDOT website needs to be updated for schedule and cost estimates for the project; Design includes an 8-foot facility on the west side and 5-foot sidewalk on the east side.
- **VDOT 2022 Repaving**- Community meetings are scheduled for April 18th, 19th and 21st. Meetings have been consolidated into district groupings. Proposed improvements will be smaller than previous years due to the cost of asphalt. There are fewer candidates for road diets and bicycle lanes as there are fewer appropriate roadways that would qualify.
- **I-495 Pedestrian Bridge** – Update and discussion about the Tysons Corner I-495 pedestrian bridge construction. Anticipated completion date is the end of 2022.

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

- Erika Christ- Nothing specific to ask and she appreciated being able to listen in and the information shared.

New/Active/Unresolved Issues:

- **Braddock Road Improvement Project** -Mr. Comer inquired about and progress on the project following the community input, specifically the pedestrian bridge location. VDOT is the county's consultant on this project. The website doesn't have any new information. Discussions continue on the appropriateness of the bridge and if it should be in a future phase. FCDOT staff will follow up.
- **Route 1 Pedestrian Safety Issues** – Mr. Klein inquired about the VDOT speed study. FCDOT staff had no new information at this time.
- **TAC Liaison**- No update at this time; can remove from the agenda at this time
- **Route 50 Transportation Study** – Gallows Road Corridor Multimodal Study as follow up to the INOVA Comprehensive Plan Amendment effort. It acknowledges that the Beltway is a barrier and may include proposed pedestrian bridges over it. The project has just been started and a consultant has been brought on board. The FCDOT Transportation Planning section is working on this study, and it will include public involvement.
- **I- 495 NEXT & I-495 Southside Express Lanes (SEL)** – I-495 NEXT groundbreaking held, and construction activity will increase. National Park Service removed their objection to the pedestrian connections to the parks in Maryland. I-495 SEL study has just begun. Comprehensive Plan recommends a trail along the Beltway and FCDOT staff brought this to VDOT's attention. Staff began discussions on proposed alignments. Ms. Iannetta recommended FCDOT include FCPA staff and other land development staff regarding proposals near Huntington to capitalize on developer efforts to add to a proposed network.
- **Route 50 Pedestrian Improvements** – Five previously funded projects, from Prosperity Road to Pickett Road/Blake Lane. Some are going to construction this year as they are in different stages of design. FCDOT can follow up.

- **Future Presentation** – FCDOT requested a presentation on the West Falls Church Gap Analysis study.
- **Annandale Greenway Event** – Mr. Albright invited members to a cleanup and walk event along the alignment on Saturday April 23rd from 12-4pm.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.