

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Room 232, Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

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

Note Taker: Karen Ampeh

Committee Members in Attendance:

Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/ Vice-Chair), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Karl Liebert (Springfield District), Erin Partlan (Franconia District), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Elizabeth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Zack DesJardins, (FCDOT) Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society)

Committee Members Absent:

Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), James Albright (Mason 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 District), *Vacant* (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board)

Call to Order: This is first in person meeting since June 2021. Quorum requirements were met and the meeting was called to order by Mr. Cosgriff at 7:11 pm. One participant, Erin Partlan, was remote, calling in from Franconia District. Mr. DesJardins assisted with the remote technology. Mr. Cosgriff read the required language of the Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee Policy for Participation in Meetings by Remote Communications. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by acclamation to confirm that all committee members could hear Ms. Partlan's voice and to authorize Ms. Partlan's remote participation.

Approval of the Minutes: The draft April, May and June 2022 minutes were sent out to members and staff for review. Mr. Cosgriff noted two spelling edits to be made, one in April and one in May that seem to have been created by autocorrect. A motion to approve the April and May 2022 with edits as discussed was moved by Ms. Ampeh, seconded by Mr. Albers, and passed. Review and approval of the June 2022 minutes has been deferred.

Presentation: None

Discussion:

- **Route 1 Speed Limit Study:** Letter was approved and sent. Mr. Cosgriff asked for the approved letter to be posted on TSB website. Mr. Newman asked staff to reorganize the TSB website to find actions taken by Board without drilling down thru months. Mr. DesJardins agrees to follow-up with that.

Mr. Newman announced there will be a public meeting of the speed limit study and provided link:

www.virginia.gov/projects/northern_virginia/richmond_highway_route_1_speed_limit_study-second_virtual_public_information_meeting_July_20

- **Use of speed cameras in school zones** (Shawn Newman): Draft letter will be drafted by next meeting about promoting use of speed cameras and provision of automated speed monitoring tools in school/work zones. Traffic enforcement has been lapsing in recent times due to staff shortages, automated tools do help improve pedestrian/bicycle safety by slowing traffic. Mr. Cosgriff stated we will be looking for draft letter by next meeting.
- Mr. Newman asked about policy on Remote Meetings. Mr. Cosgriff referred to the handout emailed THE FAIRFAX COUNTY TRAILS, SIDEWALKS AND BIKEWAYS COMMITTEE POLICY FOR PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION
- **Prince William Trail Coordination:** To follow-up on trail links with Fairfax/[Prince William Trails and Blueways Council](#) meets July 26th. FCPA supports trail link to PW County at Poplar Ford Park and has had that planned for years.
- **August 2022 Meeting:** Mr. Cosgriff stated if there are no matters urgent for August, that month's meeting could be cancelled as is usual practice for August. Mr. Albers moved to cancel August meeting, Seconded, Passed.
- **Ideas for possible future presentations.** Ms. Ampenh asked about a presentation on staff plans for future trails maintenance including markers/signage and invasive vegetation removal, noting that most of the GCCCT is stream valleys and much of that is in the Difficult Run watershed. The [25-year Difficult Run Watershed Management Plan](#) is now over 20 years old and nowhere in all 410 pages is management of invasive vegetation addressed but this is a huge issue for trails, particularly multiflora rose and oriental bittersweet. Ms. Iannetta responded that FCPA is working on plans for comprehensive new signage for GCCCT, including greater clarity at junctions where users are prone to wrong turns. Mr. Cosgriff asked Katie McDonald (Clifton Horse Society) if members of that group had mentioned problems with invasive plants or wayfinding. She said that most trails in the Clifton area are privately maintained and many of them are not in good condition due to vegetation and other issues. She did mention that at Laurel

Hill Park, the trails there seem to be used predominantly by mountain bikers which can be problematic for equestrians. Also, there are no restroom facilities at the center or along the trails.

- **Franconia-Springfield Metro project update:** Ms. Partlan asked if the committee had commented on the Frontier Drive Extension. The answer was no, the committee has not weighed in on this. The concern is near the Metro station, where plans call for a multi-user trail. She opined that bike lanes would be better to provide a safer entrance for cyclists. Comments due to VDOT by July 29. Erin will send out some information and briefing comments to committee members.
- **Arlington Boulevard Trail Update:** Mr. Albers asked that staff provide an update on the Arlington Boulevard Trail project at the next meeting.
- Mr. Newman stated VDOT appears to be installing the fourth leg of the crosswalk at Southampton and Rolling Road. If this is the case, it will dramatically shorten the time required to cross Rolling Road from the Lake Accotink Trail entrance and is a good step in improving pedestrian infrastructure in that area.

Citizen Comment/Question & Answer Period: None

Staff Report:

- **I-66 Outside the Beltway Trail Update:** FCDOT reports the route of the off-corridor segment of the I-66 multi-user trail from West Ox Road to the Fairfax County Parkway has been worked out by VDOT, FCDOT, and the contractor. It will run along Fair Lakes Parkway and Fair Lakes Circle and will be a two-way cycle track.

New/Active/Unresolved Issues:

- Mr. Cosgriff stated Providence District has been vacant for about a year. Need to get it filled. Chester was an active long time Board member, and his position has been vacant a long-time. A replacement should be recruited for the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board.
- Shawn Newman announced that FABB is sponsoring a "Bike to Market" event running from August 4-13. The goal is to encourage people to ride their bicycles to neighborhood farmers' markets as opposed to driving. It is a weeklong event because different markets are open on different days. Shawn appeared in a publicity video available on YouTube.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.