

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 9 , 2020 at 7 p.m.

Location: Remote Meeting via teleconferencing

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

Committee Members in Attendance: Ken Comer (At-Large) (Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Karen Ampeh (Sully), James Albright (Mason), Stiven Foster (Providence), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon) Wade H. B. Smith (Dranesville), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association)

Committee Members Absent: Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Soledad Portilla (Northern VA Builder's Industry Associations), Lee District (seat vacant), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (seat vacant), Andrea Reese (NOVA Parks),

Staff in Attendance: Chris Wells, Nicole Wynands, David Loss

Others in attendance: None

Call to Order: This remote meeting, the fourth since Governor Northam's State of Emergency declaration of 12 March, 2020 prohibited all in-person gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was called to order by Ken Comer (Chair) at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Comer then 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: There were no meetings in April or May, 2020, as a result of the governor's State of Emergency declaration. February, June, July and August, 2020 meeting minutes will need to be approved at a later date.

Nicole Wynands (FDCOT) provided an update on the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan (the “Plan”). The consultant (Alta) is developing a governance structure (*i.e.*, creation of an inter-agency working group and how this group will function, and how community equity considerations will be addressed); metrics; outreach materials (for example, development of a website and logo for ‘branding’) and outreach methodology (in view of pandemic restrictions on in-person meetings); a review of state and local laws, regulations, and policies; and development of a map of current conditions. Target date for these action items is the end of October. Nicole said a policy group would work on developing Comprehensive Plan amendments arising out of the Plan development. As a subset of the Plan, the consultant will develop a strategic Safety Plan.

Nicole addressed various questions from committee members regarding the proposed website, meetings, and equity considerations. Chair Ken Comer asked what role the Committee would play in Plan development, particularly in light of pandemic restrictions on meeting in-person.

Chris Wells and David Loss (FCDOT) then provided some information about the use of conference calls to conduct Committee business. Other items briefed were:

- A nominee for the vacant Lee District seat awaits Board of Supervisor approval
- An “active street” project is planned for Government Center Parkway and FCDOT is looking for more locations to convert traffic lanes into safe pedestrian/cyclist lanes
- A two-year backlog of bike lane signage is being cleared
- New bicycle parking at community centers is planned
- The 2020 bikeways map has been issued
- An update on the I-66 OTB multi-use trail
- I-95 NEXT update
- Budget implication of the pandemic: budget funding has been cut, so no new starts; less transportation money is expected going forward

New member Howard Albers (WABA) was introduced. He asked about width standards on multi-use paths that are part of the Capital Trails Network. National Park Service and VDOT standards differ on width (8’ versus 10’). FCPA uses the 8’ standard as well. Chris Wells explained that ideally 10’-12’ plus buffer is the preferred width but there are many places in the County where it is not possible to build out a trail to this size.

Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon) announced the “Tour De Mount Vernon” bicycle event for October 3 at 8 a.m. This is an annual event sponsored by the Mount Vernon District Supervisor.

Wade Smith (Dranesville) mentioned that some members are not attending and perhaps new members should be sought. There are also vacant seats (e.g., Disability Services Board). Chris Wells will contact the DSB to solicit filling that seat.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.