



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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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

May 10, 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>

Note Taker: Beth Iannetta (Secretary)

### Members Present:

Ken Comer (At Large/Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/Vice-Chair), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), Erin Parlan (Franconia District), Tyler Schiefelbein (Springfield), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association)

### Members Absent:

Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District), James Albright (Mason District), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Soledad Portilla (Northern Virginia Builder's Industry Association), Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority),

**Others in Attendance:** Nicole Wynands (FCDOT), Andrew Sheldon, FCPS Safe Routes to School Coordinator

**Call to Order:** Ken Comer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Presentation:** Mr. Andrew Sheldon, FCPS Safe Routes to School Coordinator, introduced himself to the committee as the new SRTS Coordinator including his background in the Fairfax County school system. He reviewed the current program which kicked off a bike share program where schools could borrow bikes from other schools to teach bike safety. The Pre-K learn to bike program is at five schools. His position is supporting schools with after school programs related to pedestrian and bicycle safety and bicycle maintenance. A pilot program is planned for forty-seven schools in region 2. Activities include the creation of suggested walking/biking maps for each school from their walking boundaries with support from Fairfax GIS students, pedestrian safety lessons for K-8, bike safety lessons to all students K-8, learn to ride K-3, Bike safety curriculum Grades 4-6 & 7-8 with a rotating fleet for each pyramid, the "Walk & Roll Challenge" program which rewards students who walk & roll to school, encourage walking to school bus stops and bike trains, an adapted bike program for students with disabilities, as well as SRTS events through the year and summer camps.

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Traffic Gardens provide a safe place for kids to practice pedestrian and bicycle safety habits. They have been installed at three schools and one community center. He would like them to be established at all elementary and middle schools with different templates for each so they could be used during PE lessons, during recess and after school.

Following the presentation there was a lengthy Q&A session on topics including clarification on bike gardens and their implementation, the main goals and successful outcomes of the program, bicycle parking rack availability at schools, his planned workload and ability to expand the program, funding and volunteering, the lack of certified crossing guards to serve schools, and the possibility of adding a SRTS rep to this committee in the future.

**Discussion:** Mr. Cosgriff revisited the TSB Committee Reimagined proposal and reviewed the strategies outlined in the white paper he drafted and distributed to committee members. Several ideas were discussed including assigned topic areas or specialties to members or subgroups within the committee. Examples included land use review, budgetary impacts, off-road facility design and implementation, etc. Mr. Comer stated that the memo drafted and review process could be streamlined by himself and other interested committee members.

**Citizen Inputs/Comments:** At 8:30pm Mr. Comer inquired if there was any member of the public who wished to address the committee. A Scout troop member and their parent were in attendance and they inquired about bicycle safety within a school zone and how to advocate for safety and traffic calming improvements along Ingleside Drive in McLean as well as the Churchhill Road area. Ms. Wynands gave them some information and recommended they follow up with the Dranesville Supervisors office.

**Staff Report:** Ms. Wynands gave the committee an update on a number of topics including to following:

- Mr. Gregg Steverson was named Acting Director for FCDOT following the retirement of Tom Biesiadny.
- The ActiveFairfax Section Chief position was relisted for applicants to apply. The ActiveFairfax team recently hired a Planner II and will be posting a Planner I job soon.
- The BOS issued \$25 million in project funding in April 2023 for a wide array of projects including rapid flashing beacon installations, FCPA trail and bridge repairs and replacements, and other FCDOT pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects.
- Bike to Work Day is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 from 6:30 – 9:00 am throughout the region.
- A public meeting for the Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit project is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> to be held in Falls Church.
- There is a Mason District Open House scheduled for May 2023
- The FCDOT Bike Map was recently published. If you need copies to distribute, please reach out to FCDOT staff.
- The Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Trail ribbon cutting is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Grist Mill Distillery.
- There was a brief update to the VRPA Third Rail project.

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- The County's Transportation Policy Plan will be updated and will be on the DPD workplan.
- The FCPA will hold a ribbon cutting for the Accotink Stream Valley crossing on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30am at Lake Accotink Park. More information on the event will be sent out to committee members when available.

**Other Business:**

- Mr. Klein gave a quick update on the Route 1 speed reduction implementation effort.
- Mr. Stephens noted the Parking Reimagined project will be moving forward now that the ZMOD effort was reapproved.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.