

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022, at 7:06 p.m.

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

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

Note Taker: Beth Iannetta

Committee Members in Attendance:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), Michael Depue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), *Vacant* (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board)

Others in Attendance:

Nicole Wynands (FCDOT); Wayne Rogers, Hunter Mill (Reston) resident

Call to Order & Introduction: The meeting was called to order by Representative At-Large and Chairman Ken Comer at 7:06pm. The committee welcomed its newest member, Brooks Stephens, who represents the Providence District.

Approval of the Minutes: The draft June 2022 minutes were sent out to members and staff for review. A motion to approve the June 2022 minutes with edits as discussed was moved by Mr. Comer, seconded by Mr. Liebert, and passed.

Discussion:

- **Use of speed cameras in school zones** (Shawn Newman): Mr. Newman discussed the background of the proposed letter to encourage the Board of Supervisors to implement photo speed monitoring devices within school zones and in construction zones as allowed by the Code of Virginia. Main goals would be to reduce speeding and compile data to justify future expansion of the initiative within Virginia jurisdictions. Mr. Albers noted a Board of Supervisors task force meeting was scheduled for this evening. Ms. Ampeh noted the high

turnover rate at the County Police Department through retirement but hoped staffing levels would improve. Discussion among committee members included the rate of pedestrian accidents in disenfranchised areas, inadequate road design, implementation of safety features like raised crosswalks and others promoted by safe streets initiatives. Mr. Newman would distribute his draft letter for review.

- **TSB Committee Re-imagined:** Ms. Wynands stated this was her first meeting as the official liaison to this committee following the recent retirement of Chris Wells. Moving forward, she recommends using Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) bi-annual and monthly reports for any project update inquiries rather than reporting by staff who attend the committee meetings. If in depth information is requested, she would coordinate with the staff assigned to the project in question to get more information. Her goal is to reduce FCDOT staff speaking time. Committee members can utilize the online project mapping tool to search for project information as well. She noted that she would forward related pedestrian and bicycle news articles to committee members using the County employee Newslink emails which are emailed to employee daily and contain a variety of County related news. She would compile the weblinks and forward them out to the committee. Members inquired about VDOT's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP) for corridor improvements like curb ramps and crosswalks. Ms. Wynands noted an upcoming meeting on September 22, 2022, on FCDOT's Project Prioritization initiative.

Ms. Wynands further recommended the committee's involvement on Comprehensive Plan Amendments given the lack of ActiveFairfax representation for these applications. She read off a list of recent plan amendments as examples. Mr. Newman felt it would be helpful if there was a method to identify which of the amendments the committee should focus on as there are many in the pipeline. He suggested a briefing by the FCDOT Transportation Planning Division on how this committee could be most effective. Ms. Iannetta requested that the briefing include recommendations on appropriate timing given the constraints the committee is under when producing letters of recommendations. Ms. Lawrence recommended staff inquire about what is allowed under the committee's charter to ensure that we are within our allowed actions.

Citizen Comment/Question & Answer Period:

Mr. Wayne Rogers stated he was happy to attend the committee meeting and to hear the discussions so far. He inquired about some site-specific items like the pedestrian push buttons in Reston and asked about safety improvements at the W&OD trail at Wiehle Avenue. Ms. Wynands explained the pedestrian countdown heads are triggered automatically as part of pilot project in Reston, however the committee members were unaware of this initiative. More information was requested. Staff and committee members supplied Mr. Rogers with the Wiehle Avenue pedestrian bridge project that is underway.

Staff Report:

- ActiveFairfax Update – Ms. Wynands had no new information for the committee and won't likely have anything new till next year. The bicycle parking guidelines are being coordinated with other County staff.

- Ten (10) committee members positions were reaffirmed by the Board of Supervisors recently. Those that should receive notification from the Clerk of Board.
- New FOIA meeting standards require approved meeting minutes to be posted online no more than 7 days after approval.
- Mr. Newman announced FABB's promotion of Bike Your Park Day on September 24th. Check out more information online.
- Future committee presentations include Bikeshare Expansion, Parking Reimagined Update, and follow up with Deputy County Executive, Rachel Flynn.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.