

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting – 7:00pm, January 9

Location:

Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035,
Conference Room 8

Web Site: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Note-Taker: Karl Liebert

Committee Members in Attendance:

Committee Members Absent:

Others in Attendance:

The meeting was called to order by Representative At-Large and Chairman Ken Comer at 7:04 pm.

Agenda and Discussion Topics

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from December were approved with the following changes:

1. J Albright: suggest “Sheila expressed alarm” should be changed to “Expressed concern”
2. “Chair Ken Comer re staff report on bridges” Strike “Stonehelm” from list of bridges.
3. Add discussion about adding about adding terminology and department functions to welcome packet for new members.
4. Missing action item regarding maintenance/operations: request follow-up on 2013 Assessment of Maintenance needs for FCDOT and FCPA. Committee would like staff to follow up regarding an update of this report. What would it take to produce a new version of that report? The committee would like to use those results to support funding for maintenance in the budget. Jim took action to send words to this effect to Lauren.

Brief from Fairfax Trails and Stream/Potomac Heritage Trails Association (PA) represented by Bill Niegringhaus and Karen Jones

1. Pushing for park authority to take better advantage of volunteers. PA now has insurance for BOS property and PA land. Training required. You become an “official volunteer”. Projects are vetted with Area Managers. Still pushing for PA to allow volunteer projects to develop

trails in Stream Valley already in Master Plan.

2. CCT Issues:
 1. Erosion closures, some fixed with big rocks, but horses can't use them.
 2. Rt 7 widening may present opportunity to add underpass. But new plan has horses routed to underpass with biker-hikers routed to crosswalk.
 1. Wade Smith- The Rt 7 widening came in over budget, so they are looking for cost savings.
 3. I-66 project may present opportunity to re-route CCT under 66 and reconnect at Picket.
 4. Opportunity to route CCT around current Rolling/FFX Parkway Crossing.
 5. Thomas McFarland - Pohick Valley Trail from Liberty Bell is being planned down to Hidden Ponds.
3. Other Efforts
 1. BROT to Occoquan link is planned.
 2. Bull Run Loop – need a couple of Bull Run Crossings. Need support from PW County for segment on other side of Bull Run.
4. TPP Projects
 1. Sulley Loop and Bull Run loop is a focused area for them.
5. Alert system needed for Trail Advocates – couldn't be implemented by the Trails committee, but the committee could be on the distribution list and serve to amplify trail issues.
6. In response to request that the committee help with PA representation to Fairfax County, Ken Comer pointed out the committee reports to the BOS and would not be able to facilitate interaction with other branches of FC gov.
7. General discussion about CCT Rt 7 crossing options.

Staff Report

- Fairfax applied for Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Grants and got \$1.3M for 6 crossing projects. VDOT is administering the projects and they are moving quickly. Expect to be completed Dec 2019.
- Final schedule for repaving meetings provided as handout.
- Ribbon cutting for crosswalk under Chain Bridge (Tyson's Corner)
- Upcoming presentation regarding Safe Routes to School
- Braddock Road Project discussion: Is pedestrian crosswalk planned to be Maintained at Burke Lake and Braddock along with bridge? Yes. Ken advocates for the location of the proposed Bridge to be moved.

Popup Business

Ken Comer brought up need to elect chairperson annually. Ken Comer was re-elected as committee Chair by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business

Huntley Meadows

- The committee received letter from Supervisor McKay. In essence it said he was going to ask for study of other East-West Routes after the existing routes get struck from plan.
- Jim said Supervisor Storck does not want to exclude a route through the park.

- Ken may not be available to speak on behalf of the Committee on new public meeting date. Stiven said he could represent the committee. He guidance for speaking was to reiterate what is in our letter regarding concern about this setting a precedent about Friends of Parks advocating trail reduction.
- Resubmit letter to planning as input to their process
- Ken will represent the committee on this issue to the BOS.

Gabrielson Gardens Bridge Public Meeting - Thomas did presentation on bridge project progress. Meeting Lasted a few hours. About 60 people attended.

- Ongoing frustration about its removal
- Money is available, but even so, the time-line to replace it is 18 months. Additional funding still needed.
- Thomas reported they are not considering a fair-weather crossing.
- Most of the 18 months is permitting, construction will only take about 3 months.

Committee Web Site - Biking and Biking Trails through the Parks page on FCPA portal discourages biking in parks. This page should be revised. Stiven will send URL to Thomas to revise page.

I-66 OTB Trail

Stiven requests update of planned routes from FCDOT and FCDOT

Committee Website: no comments

Ken requests Lauren reserve room 8 for committee meetings

TPP projects – approved projects are moving forward, but no new projects are being added to the plan. TPP item may be struck from Agenda.

Future presentations

- Request made to FCPD to make presentation on reporting and recording of bike and pedestrian accidents. Concern is the potential for under-reporting of bicycle and pedestrian accidents. The desire is to collect sufficient data to make intelligent policy.
- Trail maintenance money. The committee would like insight into maintenance needs, how they are prioritized, and who is performing it. There was a report to this effect several years ago and the committee thinks it should be updated. The updated maintenance needs list will facilitate in the advocacy of additional funds for maintenance for FCPA.
 - Thomas McFarland FCPA needs sinking funds money to enable FCPA maintenance throughout the parks.
 - The committee will advocate to the BOS at April budget meeting for increased trail maintenance funds.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.