

Minutes of the Fairfax County Trails & Sidewalks Committee

October 8, 2008

Members Present – Wade Smith, Vice Chairman (Dranesville), Peter Christensen (Mount Vernon), Robert Michie (Lee), Douglas Pew (Hunter Mill), Roger Diedrich (Providence), Lisa Willey (Springfield), Dennis Frew (WABA), Mark Tipton (FCFCA), Ann Pimley (FADSB), Mary Flowers (Clifton Horse Society)

Staff Present – Sheng Leu (DPZ); Jeffrey Hermann (DOT)

Call to Order – Wade Smith, Vice Chairman, convened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Wade asked for any changes to the Agenda. Following changes were added: (1) Do we want to have a liaison with VDOT, (2) Hot Lane Project, (3) Bike Maps, and (4) Escrows and Easements in the GIS. Agenda approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes of September 2008 Meeting – Minutes were corrected to change the due date of the Best Practice for Bicycle subcommittee report to Mar 09 not Nov 08. Corrected copies will be sent out to all members.

Bike Maps. Jeffrey reported that the bike map is being updated. They had 6,000 on hand which were given out (the May 16 Bike to Work Day copy) and expect to have 40,000+ printed in approximately a month. They expect to distribute it to the supervisors' offices, bike shops in Fairfax County, events, and requests from the public. The maps are free. They can add other areas to distribute the map once the 40,000 are produced. The question was asked if someone could order one through the internet. The answer was yes, on the Bike Page on the committee web site.

Liaison to Hot Lanes. Wade asked if someone wanted to volunteer to be the liaison with VDOT. Or at least he would like everyone to think about it; such as would it be useful to have a liaison and would it affect pedestrian/bike construction, etc. Someone asked if VDOT should come to our meetings. Members thought it would be a good idea. During discussion of the topic it was mentioned that there would be VDOT meetings that this volunteer would have to attend, probably in Chantilly. There would not be much to do...mainly report back to the committee. Wade said it would be put on the agenda for next month. Jeff discussed the role of FCDOT's liaison, and Wade said it was a good idea.

Escrows and Easements in the GIS. Sheng Leu reported that from now on the new ones will be in the GIS and that it only takes one person to do it. Wade asked if the committee should bring the question to the BOS to request DPW, after the planning is finalized, to have someone put them in the GIS. Sheng Leu said maybe the Maintenance Group could do it since easements are important to them. Wade said he will make a motion at the November meeting to take it up with the DPWES first, then send to BOS and that the Maintenance Group would be the place for it to be done.

Sidewalk & Trails Committee Web Site. Doug Pew will lead this group and report at the November meeting. The County is redesigning their web site and is working on the new style sheet now. They expect the final stage of redesign to be done by October 27. Doug said he would get the web site subcommittee group together, probably in the daytime.

Top Priorities. Wade asked the District reps to get their top priorities in by the end of November. Doug mentioned that these would not be items already on from the bonds, but would be more uncommitted (unfunded), rather like a wish list. During discussion it was mentioned that Metro access is a prime item and could be a priority. We discussed two lists – the Bond List and the Federal List that should be looked at.

Yearly Funding. Jeff reported that more than \$0.5 billion would be needed to fund all trails and sidewalks on the Trails Plan. He said that there were currently 11.5 miles of on road bike lanes and that it costs roughly \$5 million/mile to build. Currently there are 200-300 miles of existing trails as specified on the Trails Plan. The Trails Plan shows 1,736 mile. It would take about \$750 million to \$2.2 Billion to build everything on the Trails Plan in today's dollar. This figure does not include lighting projects or signalized intersections (1,000 in the county). The planning cost is \$350,000 per intersection.

CMAQ Funding. Jeff discussed the bicycle projects nominated for the 2009 and 2010 CMAQ Funding first. The Priority 1 project of the 2010 CMAQ grant is in the Providence District and is enhanced bicycle parking/access improvements at the Vienna Metro Station. Wade asked when the Priority 1 is planning on being done. Jeff responded that it depends on whether or not we receive the funding. Wade said he would like a report on what Metro stations will be getting bike racks. Committee members should send suggestions to Jeff for more locations. The Bicycle Projects for 2009 CMAQ Funding is just waiting for money.

Staff Reports. Jeff reported that Westmoreland Street now has bike lanes. Not a lot, but it provides an example in that part of the county for people to see. Old Courthouse Road North of the town of Vienna is working on traffic calming measures and they will be adding bike lanes from Pine Valley Dr to just north of Country Club Dr. Gallows Road is coming along.

Motion to Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Flowers, Acting Secretary