

## **Minutes of the Fairfax County Trails & Sidewalks Committee**

Meeting on March 11, 2009 – meeting minutes by Jenny Pate

**Members Present** – Doug Pew, Vice-Chairman (Hunter Mill), Rob Airaghi (Sully), Peter Christensen (Mount Vernon), Robert Michie (Lee), Roger Diedrich (Providence), Jan Reitman (Mason), Lisa Willey (Springfield), Dennis Frew (WABA), Paul Johnson (NVBIA), Ann Pimley (FADSB), Jenny Pate (FCPA)

**Staff Present** – Sheng Leu (DPZ), Chris Wells (FCDOT)

**Call to Order** – Doug Pew convened meeting at 7:40 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2009 Meeting** – minutes were approved unanimously (motion by Lisa Willey, second by Dennis Frew) as submitted by Robert Michie with several modifications to correct for clarification.

**Approval of Agenda** – items added: old business - trails list process; new business - business cards for members, training on waivers, Centreville Road/VDOT issues

### **Staff Reports**

Chris Wells reported that the new Street Smart program kicks off on March 25 and includes a bike component and informational messages for pedestrians and drivers. The first of the intersection improvement plans are moving into construction with several connection improvement plans scheduled for later in the year. DOT is looking for new projects and programming funds for the next few years. Currently included are Tysons Metro access, Wiehle Avenue access, and the HOT lanes tie-ins. The intersection retrofit list includes the “Top 40” projects and Chris is working on a 2<sup>nd</sup> “Top 40” and the next 40 major projects. He is also gathering the “missing links” lists from the Committee, the BOS, and others. Next step is a draft list to the BOS and the Transportation Advisory Committee to create a list for future funding.

**List Process Discussion** – Chris said that he is collecting all recommendations and that the comments column is useful, but it isn’t necessary to include a map. Key factors to consider are buildability and accessibility of the right-of-way – in other words, can the project be built and will land acquisition be necessary. The existing FABB list should also be reviewed by committee members while making district lists. The Goal is April/May for wrap-up of draft list, though Chris will continue to accept projects throughout the year. As of the meeting date, Chris has received lists from the following districts: Mason, Springfield, Hunter Mill, Providence, and Mt. Vernon. He also has received suggestions from Mark Tipton for countywide projects.

### **Staff Reports** (continued)

Sheng Leu distributed the DPWES final waiver decision list and the table of District Walkway Funds to the district reps. There are some changes being made on the webpage. Speakers need to register to speak before the BOS during the budget hearings the end of March and early April. Committee members suggested that topics for the committee to cover could include the

need for maintenance dollars for trails and the need for staffing for trail planning (both the FCPA and DPZ are proposing elimination of trail planning positions the beginning of FY2010). A design charrette will be held for the PHNST from Great Falls Park north and west through upper Fairfax and Loudoun counties mid April. All are invited to attend.

**Old Business – County Response on Trail Waiver Policy** – general discussion of the response and questions about the escrow topic. Bottom line is that escrow posted for a specific project must remain in the fund to be used only for that project, so unless the trail is built, the money is untouchable.

**New Business – business cards for members** – members agreed that in this fiscal climate business cards are not necessary.

**Training on waivers for new members** – the committee members give input as requested, but are not expected to be experts in engineering. Sheng Leu will put together the basic contact persons and numbers for questions about the waiver process. The committee also recommended that new members work with experienced members until they learn the process. Staff are also available for questions and to give suggestions. Bob Michie’s website contains a summary of his thinking on waiver requests and specific examples – see [www.personalpronouns.org/trails](http://www.personalpronouns.org/trails) for further information.

**Centreville Road/VDOT issue (Sully District)** – VDOT has blocked all pedestrian access during current construction project on Centreville Road and Floris Street. The access is supposed to be maintained, but Rob has not gotten a positive response from VDOT. Committee members suggested contacting state representative or senator for help and continuing to pursue with VDOT.

**Motion to Adjourn** – 9:10 p.m. Unanimous approval.