

Fairfax County Sidewalk and Trail Committee  
Minutes of the July 11, 2007 Meeting

**Members Attending:** Deborah Leser (Sully District), Wade Smith (Dranesville District), Peter Christensen (Mount Vernon District), Roy Brooks (Mason District), Gene Bartlow (Springfield District), Mary Flowers (Clifton Horse Society), Dennis Frew (WABA), Dan Iglhaut (NVRPA), and Ann Pimley (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board).

**Staff Attending:** Chris Wells (DOT) and Sheng-Jieh Leu (DPZ).

**Guests Attending:** Philip Latasa (Friends of the Accotink)

**Minutes of the June Meeting:** Two changes were proposed to the June 13, 2007 minutes. In paragraph 2, Gene Barlow's name is misspelled. In paragraph 3, Robert Michie described Supervisor Hyland's proposed changes to the waiver process. The proposed changes would require public notice at least 30 days prior to the waiver approval in order to facilitate community input. The proposal is still under review at this time. The minutes were approved unanimously with the changes.

Dennis Frew attended the July 3 concerning HOT Lanes. The meeting was not productive.

The presentation date for Best Practices for Bicycles has been changed from September to March due to the large amount of research that is required.

**Staff Report: Chris Wells.**

- Proposed changes to VA pedestrian safety laws: C. Wells participated in a teleconference in June that was centered in Richmond. The changes to the law that were distributed to the committee members via email are on the fast track in Richmond. They were adapted from similar laws on the books in Oregon and Washington. The proposals would strengthen laws to protect pedestrians outside of marked crosswalks but at intersections as well as clarify other aspects of the law. A. Pimley asked for clarification of the wheelchair portion of the law. Any person in a wheelchair has the right to use both pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- Funding is currently available for pedestrian projects due to the changes in transportation funding at the state level. In addition, Fairfax County can create special tax districts to fund transportation projects which may make more funds available for non-motorized projects. The increases in gas prices have motivated VDOT and the State Assembly to increase the funding of non-motorized projects. Characteristics of projects that will have a better chance of funding are: buildability (especially the availability of ROW); serving a large population; and cost.

- Clairmont Road is closing due to construction. Due to the usefulness of this bicycle route, funding of temporary alternate routes should be considered. Charlie Strunk will be involved in this effort.

### **Staff Report – Sheng Jieh Leu**

- The Trail Waiver Request Report was discussed.
- Larger maps are available for reviewing trail locations. Mr. Leu will send them to any member who requests them.
- Mr. Leu asked the committee for feedback on the Centreville Road on road bicycle lanes. The project is Hunter Mill District on one side. Mr. Leu is asking for the construction of the bicycle lane but no striping until considerable length is built and dedicated. There were no objections from the committee members present to this effort.

### **Web Site Subcommittee Report – Wade Smith**

Several elements of the current Web Site were discussed. The following list is a synopsis of the discussion:

- Key words or metatags (such as trails or bicycles) from the Fairfax County Homepage should lead to the committee web site.
- Both a bicycle and equestrian page should be on the web site.
- The existing section concerning the purpose of the committee should be significantly reduced.
- There should be a link to FDOT's pedestrian page.
- Each member should review his or her contact information on the homepage and let Mr. Leu know of any errors.
- What's new should be deleted. What's new should be on the homepage.
- Mr. Leu is the point of contact for the web site.
- What should be on the homepage? Committee members should bring suggestions to the September meeting or contact Wade Smith.
- The bylaws and charter should be updated.
- The Trails Plan should be on the web site, however the PDF format is time consuming to use.
- Trail maps should be available for sale on line. The county should also make them available for purchase in bicycle and running shops.
- Event information that could be displayed on the web site should be forwarded to Mr. Leu.
- Committee members are encourage to bring suggestions for links to the September meeting or contact Wade Smith.
- Reduce the amount of text on the maps page – just include the links to the maps.

- Minutes of the meetings that are on the web site must be in PDF format to prevent alteration. A. Pimley reminded the committee members that only specific formats are usable by the text to speech software.
- The news page should list more events.
- Should projects that involve bicycle and pedestrian components be included on the web site?
- Should a link be available for people to request trail maintenance?
- A FAQ sheet would be useful.
- Information concerning the safe use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities would be useful.
- Photos would be attractive.

Committee members are asked to review the web site and its connections before the September meeting as well as answering the questions asked above.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Submitted by Deborah Rimmer Leser, Secretary.