

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Location: Remote Meeting via Cisco Webex Video Teleconferencing
Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Committee Members in Attendance: Ken Comer (At-Large) (Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), James Albright (Mason), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), Stiven Foster (Providence), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Debby Cohen (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Andrea Reese (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority),

Committee Members Absent: Dyami Pipkin (Lee), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders Association), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Mark Tipton (Fairfax Council of Community Associations)

Staff in Attendance: Chris Wells, Nicole Wynands, David Loss

Others in attendance: Peter Sitnik (Mt. Vernon representative to the Transportation Advisory Commission)

Call to Order: This remote meeting, the eighth since Governor Northam's State of Emergency declaration of 12 March, 2020 prohibited all in-person gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was called to order by Ken Comer (Chair) at 7:00 p.m. This is the third remote meeting using Cisco Webex video conferencing. Mr. Comer then read the recitals required under Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, the uncodified Fairfax County Board of Supervisors emergency ordinance adopted on 14 April, 2020, and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3700 to - 3714) pertaining to meetings that must be conducted remotely during a declared State of Emergency as being essential to the continuity of government. As required by the legal guidance, Mr. Comer introduced a motion, which was seconded, that this meeting is required for conducting an essential governmental function and must be conducted remotely. He requested that the motion be approved by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved. Mr. Comer next conducted a roll call to determine which members, staff, and other participants were in attendance and that every member, staff, and other participants could hear every other attendee clearly. Following this roll call and determining that a quorum was reached, Mr. Comer moved that the committee confirm that every participant could hear every other participant clearly. The motion was seconded; Mr. Comer called for approval by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: There were no meetings in April or May, 2020, as a result of the governor's State of Emergency declaration. February, June, July August, September, October, November, and December 2020 meeting minutes will need to be approved at a later date.

New Business: Vice-chair Bob Cosgriff brought up the question of appointing a committee secretary, as required in the charter. The question was briefly discussed and then deferred by the Chair until the next meeting to enable the committee to determine what duties the secretary would carry out and to see if any member wanted to volunteer for the position.

Chris Wells (FCDOT) discussed the Capital Trails network. Previously, only trails/bikeways that existed or were funded were included for the Fairfax County portion of this regional network, but now additional trails/bikeways that were already in the Fairfax County Bike Master Plan were added. A discussion ensued on the definition of "trail" since some of the items shown on the map displayed by Chris Wells meet the current standards for "multi-use trail" which required 10' width. Various other suggestions/observations were made by committee members and acknowledged by Chris Wells. FCDOT will continue working with the Capital Trails Coalition on this.

Staff Report: Chris Wells discussed the presentation made by FCDOT to the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee which covered updates on safety initiatives (VDOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan), Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFP) installations, the Tysons street closure, VDOT's Route 7 upgrade project, and Route 1 corridor improvements. FCDOT also presented an update to the BOS Transportation Committee on the status of the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan. The presentation is available on the County website.

FDCOT has received funding to conduct a speed study on Route 1. The study will take approximately one year to conduct and analyze.

Nicole Wynands provided an update on the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan:

- Existing conditions review is nearly completed
- Phase I should end in May
- Community engagement will start on 1 February: an online survey with an interactive map will start the process followed by virtual meetings, use of social media, and targeted in-person outreach. This led to a short discussion about outreach methodology.
- The Equity Advisory Committee (21 members) will kick off on 14 January. The Youth Advisory Committee (17 members) will meet at a date to be determined
- Vision and Goals: Nicole asked the TSB Committee members to think of their vision and goals for the Plan. At the February meeting, she will conduct a short "Vision and Goals" exercise with the committee to obtain input
- Plan and Policy Audit will be done by the end of January
- Phase II funding has not been resolved at this time. Phase II will see the development of a Comprehensive Plan amendment

Public Comment: Mr. Peter Sitnik, the Mount Vernon District representative on the County's Transportation Advisory Committee, discussed the value of the TAC and the TSB working together on issues. One of the issues is that roads are measured by "level of service" which stresses vehicle throughput while neglecting pedestrian/cyclist issues. He briefly touched on the "complete street" concept that takes into account all equities.

Other Business: Karen Ampeh (Sully) gave an update on the Gabrielson Gardens Bridge project over Difficult Run. It is nearing completion. Beth Iannetta (FCPA) stated that the Park Authority would be sending out e-mails about the dedication, TBD.

Wade Smith (Dranesville) noted that several organizational representatives have not attended several virtual meetings in a row and that perhaps their organizations should be asked to nominate new members.

James Albright (Mason) reported that he had toured his district with Dep. County Executive Flynn and encouraged other magisterial district representatives to do the same.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.