

Fairfax County Trails and Sidewalks Committee

Minutes

May 13, 2015

Government Center Conference Room 8

7:00PM

Meeting Called to order at 7:09 PM

Peter Christensen (Mt. Vernon), Ken Comer (At Large), Wade Smith (Dranesville), Jeff Anderson (Hunter Mill), Alan Young (Springfield), Chris Wells (Staff), Elizabeth Cronauer (FCPA), Robert Michie (Lee), Roger Wilson (Providence), Paul Johnson (NVBIA), Jean Voss (Clifton Horse Society),

Staff Report

Extended discussion of the proposed amendment to the Public Facilities Manual (PFM). The particular issue was the meaning of the phrase "...in consultation with the affected board member." While a large number of issues regarding development and property rights appeared to be at stake, it was the consensus that the role of T&S committee members on modifications and waivers in their own districts would be worked out individually. No committee action was necessary or appropriate.

Bike to Work day is Friday (May 15) – preparations were reviewed.

Staff reports that I-66 hearings are planned for the near future.

A joint meeting with the Transportation Advisory Committee is planned for May 19 on the topic of I-66 planning.

A two-day charrette (community meeting) is planned for June 23 & 24 on the bridge or bike ramp at the Beltway and VA123. A number of solutions are under consideration including a trail under the interstate or other grade-separation facility.

The process of approving waivers will be transitioning within county staff on May 15. The Division of Transportation will hand it over to the Site Analysis Section of the Planning Division. Technical inputs from the pedestrian and bike coordinators will continue.

Funding for sidewalks and trails: The County is likely to update its six-year priorities in the 2016-17 time frame. There will probably not be a full-scale review until then.

No changes are announced with respect to the vacant bicycle coordinator position.

New Business

VDOT issued a press release in April announcing the new Bicycling in Virginia Map. They emphasized:

- The commonwealth's 838 miles of United States Bicycle Routes 1 and 76

- The Virginia Capital Trail, connecting the colonial capital of Williamsburg with the modern capital of Richmond
- Numerous locations for off-road mountain bike rides
- A range of facilities suitable for beginners and families with young children.

We all noted that it would be great if VDOT coordinated the creation of these trails with the ambitious repaving process.

It was agreed that we will not have an August committee meeting.

Old Business

The Occoquan River Trail. The BOS deferred action until the June 12th meeting regarding the waterfront trail section. The BOS will allow the northern section to proceed. Apparently the issue is still open for comment and negotiations continue with the FCWA.

Roger Wilson presented a map of the potential I-66 bike trail impact. Some 25% of the population of Fairfax County lives within one mile of I-66. The committee requested Roger to do a similar analysis of the W&OD trail for comparison purposes.

Alan Young agreed to draft a letter to the board on the urgency with which trails need to be incorporated in the I-66 widening plan. The committee clearly felt that the opportunity to create a landmark bicycle and pedestrian facility – on the order of the W&OD and the Mt. Vernon Trail – was slipping away.

Wade Smith reported on his continuing research into the options for bicycles on future VRE cars. Caltrain cars have the same design as the majority of the VRE fleet, and a recent article depicted their ability to carry 72 bicycles in a single car.

Adjourned 8:46PM.