

# Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

## Meeting Notes

### Regular Meeting – 7:00pm, March 14

Location:

Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035,  
Conference Room 6

Web Site: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Note-Taker: Karl Liebert

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Ken Comer (At-large, Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock, Vice Chair) Jim Klein (Mt Vernon), Wade Smith (Dranesville), Stiven Foster (Providence), James Albright (Mason), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Robert Michie (Lee), Karen Ampeh (Sully), Soledad Portilla (NVBIA), Lauren Delmare (FCDOT), Beth Iannetta (FCPA)

**Committee Members Absent:** Jeff Anderson (Hunters Mill), Not Represented (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Not Represented (WABA), Mark Tipton (FCFCA), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Dan Iglhaut (NVA)

**Others in Attendance:** Sheila Dunheimer (Coalition for GGB)

The meeting was called to order by Representative At-Large and Chairman Ken Comer at 7:00pm.

### Agenda and Discussion Topics

#### **Old Business**

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from February 2019 were approved by voice vote with minor changes to be handled by staff.

#### **Pedestrian Refuge on Franconia Road at Westchester Street**

VDOT is currently planning a pedestrian refuge on Franconia Road, east of Westchester Street. Funding and design are already approved. Some nearby residents are resistant to the design, because they (illegally) use the middle lane there to merge with traffic as they turn left off of Westchester. There is an upcoming meeting to present the plan to the public. Robert Michie (Lee District) plans to attend and asked the Committee for assistance in arguing in support of the planned pedestrian sanctuary.

Ken recommends sticking to fact and numbers. There are plans to alter the traffic pattern at a nearby

school which may have some impact. The amount of pedestrian traffic and whether student use that crossing to get to school would be good data points. Also, the school buses leaving the school may benefit from the new traffic pattern caused by the pedestrian sanctuary.

### **Beth Iannetta Introduction**

Beth is a new committee member representing FCPA. She joins us from FCDOT with 15 years of experience. Her focus at FCPA as the Trails & Infrastructure Coordinator will be reviewing development plans, serving on FCPA master planning teams, and coordinating park and trail impacts associated with VDOT & FCDOT transportation projects.

Stiven Foster (Providence District) took the opportunity to renew his request that FCPA reword one of their web pages such that it encourages bicycling and use of trails, rather than discouraging bicycling.

**Point of Order:** Minutes taker will take attendance and take the attendance sheet with them at the close of the meeting.

### **Staff Report**

- Unusually, the committee met in room 206. Conference room 208 has been reserved from May going forward, but that leaves April as an issue. Staff plans to hold the April meeting in the FCDOT offices at 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400. Attendees are asked to arrive at 6:45 to be escorted up to the meeting room. People who arrive at the normal time will be escorted up in a second batch and may miss the first several minutes of the meeting.
- Committee members should review the list of funding opportunities in the report. Ideas for proposals can be sent to FCDOT, who would then make them.
- Lauren asked for committee members to request projects on which they would like to be briefed.
- See the published Staff Report for this month for other details.
- Staff Q&A
  - In response to a question by Stiven, Lauren confirmed there is a plan for a cycle track around the Vienna Metro station.
  - In response to a question by Stiven, Lauren gave a short brief on the I495 Next project. The project would add bicycle trails adjacent to 495 and stretch into Maryland across the American Legion Memorial Bridge. In response to a question from Wade, Lauren indicated that VDOT is handling coordination with Maryland.

### **Gabrielson Gardens Bridge Update**

The next meeting on this topic will be April 1 at which Tom McFarland (FCPA) will present the results of a feasibility study to replace the bridge. Karen Ampeh (Sully District) requested Beth attend if possible.

## **Discussion**

### **Committee Role and Responsibility**

This discussion is meant to better define the role and objectives of the committee. It resulted from a conversation between Chris Wells (FCDOT) and Ken Comer (At-large) in which Ken was asked which business he would like to the committee to accomplish.

As the conversation was wide-ranging and extensive. These minutes will only capture highlights without attribution.

- Provide input and assistance in revising the trail master plan. Especially where local knowledge would be a benefit.
- Review of plan waivers and projects already in work, while good information, often comes too late for members to contribute actionable input. And the many plan waivers would not be of interest to most of the committee. An example of something that is working well is the briefs on plans for VDOT paving and painting around the county.
- Calendar items like deadlines for grant requests and county budget inputs should be presented to the committee early enough to allow members to provide suggestions and input.
  - FCDOT has an “Evergreen Calendar” which provides a general schedule of what the upcoming events are throughout the year.
- FABB and the Trails Alliance are resources the committee can leverage to stay ahead of projects of interest in the various districts and funding deadlines.
- James Albright made the following motion, as amended by Stiven Foster:

**Motion:** Staff will provide a report on the scale of work required to update and merge the Countrywide Trail Plan and the Bicycle Master Plan and when they were last updated, including policy roads.

Karen Ampeh seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**No further business on the agenda was addressed.**

### **Announcements and Adjournment**

Samantha Hudson, the FCPA long range planner, would like to present the “PROS” (Parks, Recreation and Open Space) Plan including strategic objectives and actions steps that pertain to walkability and access to parks.

The call to adjourn was made, seconded and carried unanimously at 9:11pm