

Joint Environmental Taskforce – Transportation Subcommittee
MEETING SUMMARY
8/03/2020

Subcommittee Members in Attendance: School Board Member Karl Frisch, Karen Campblin, Rick Clayton, Susan Stillman

Staff in attendance included Tom Biesiadny (Director, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT)) and Marguerite Guarino (Deputy Director of Administration, Department of Vehicle Services).

- Update from Susan Stillman on County Transit Electrification Recommendations:
 - Mentioned the Board Matter presented by Supervisor Stork last week directing staff to purchase electric vehicles for 100% of all FY2021 eligible vehicle purchases. Asked Marguerite Guarino to confirm the number of vehicles for FY 2021 and FY 2022 and out years if available and to define an eligible vehicle.
 - Federal funding and potentially VW funds from the state are available to purchase electric transit buses. Tom Biesiadny mentioned some transit buses are scheduled to be replaced in 2022. Tom has provided the bus replacement schedule and the miles traveled by the Fairfax Connector buses for the shortest routes.
 - Current transit buses have clean diesel technology that reduce emissions from the exhaust. Susan would like to know how much particulate matter and carbon dioxide are coming from “clean diesel” buses. The existing plan for Fairfax Connector fleet turnover is 2037.
 - Fairfax Connector does not have any charging equipment in maintenance facilities/garages or in the field. Susan mentioned that grants are available for charging equipment as well as buses, but Tom confirmed the county has not submitted an application for either.
 - School Board Member Karl Frisch emphasized that Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) can both benefit by working together on the logistics, potentially sharing charging infrastructure.
- Update from Rick Clayton on Bike Trails
 - FCPS Safe Routes to School Coordinator Sally Smallwood’s position received grant funding. Bike advocates would like to see her position made full time.
 - Recommended reviewing census data to identify opportunities for bike lanes.
 - Recommended expanding safety opportunities by adding lights and blue light call boxes on walking and biking trails. Tom mentioned that lighting is being expanded on trails near metro stations and blue light call boxes are being phased out because of cell phones. Cell phones are geographically coded so that public safety can identify the location of a phone.
 - Expressed interest in pursuing the rails to trails initiative. Tom mentioned that there are few opportunities in Fairfax County because rails are active. A portion of W&OD rail may be converted, but is predominantly in Fort Belvoir. FCDOT is reviewing rail near North Lorton Road near I-95 that leads to the former Lorton Prison site.
 - Recommended a Tour de Fairfax to encourage biking in Fairfax County. The event would be similar to one in Iowa that includes community businesses.
- Update from Karen Campblin on Sidewalks and Trails
 - Recommended removing barriers from accessing bike paths and sidewalks.

- Consider ADA accessibility when expanding the bike share program by including e-bikes and e-scooters and incorporating electric infrastructure requirements.
- Consider universal accessibility trails in areas where there is high usage.
- Include traffic calming measures and protective bike lanes.
- Recommended widening sidewalks in traditional neighborhoods to accommodate a variety of pedestrians (i.e. in line skating) and maintain distancing for COVID-19.
- Create a wayfinding guide similar to Raleigh, North Carolina to encourage residents to walk.
- Increase lighting along sidewalks to encourage walking when the sun goes down.
- Tom mentioned that VDOT owns the roads and has strict standards to ensure consistency across the state. Fairfax County cannot paint the cross walks like the Town of Herndon or Arlington as they own the streets where the painting has occurred. Richmond has incorporated more flexible language for pedestrians.
- School Board Member Karl Frisch suggested four categories for each section:
 - Current Status/Deficiencies: 1-2 Paragraphs
 - Values Statement: 1-2 Paragraphs
 - Bullet Recommendations (with Timelines and Benchmarks)
 - Additional Notes (Things to Avoid, Thoughts on Coordination, Legislative Packages, etc.)