



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission Meeting Notes

REGULAR MEETING

September 20, 2022, at 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

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

Note-Taker: Roger Hoskin

TAC Members in Attendance: Chair Mike Champness (Dranesville), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon), Jeremy Hancock (Providence), and Eric Thiel (Springfield).

TAC Members Absent: Linda Sperling (At-Large), M. David Skiles (Sully), and Christy Garton (Fairfax Area Disabilities Services Board – FADSB).

The Hunter Mill District and Lee District positions remained vacant.

Others in Attendance: Brian Keightley, Director, Urban Forest Management Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services; and FCDOT staff: Calvin Lam, Staff Liaison to the TAC, and Brent Riddle, FCDOT staff.

Special Guests/Observers/Public: N/A

Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chair Champness at 7:33 pm. The Chair then proceeded with the protocol necessary to justify a virtual meeting.

To fulfill procedural obligations of virtual meetings, Chair Champness and Vice Chair Sitnik performed the opening procedures for a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams. Meeting recording and materials will be posted online at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings

The location of each member was announced by voice since they are participating remotely.

- At-Large: Linda Sperling – not present
- Braddock District: Kevin Morse – Burke
- Dranesville District: Mike Champness (Chair) – McLean
- Hunter Mill District: VACANT
- Mason District: Roger Hoskin (Secretary) – Falls Church

- Mount Vernon District: Pete Sitnik (Vice Chair) – Alexandria
- Lee District: VACANT
- Providence District: Jeremy Hancock – Falls Church
- Springfield District: Eric Thiel – Springfield

The Chair made a first motion to *"determine that each member's voice can be adequately heard by each other member of this Commission."* It was seconded by Commissioner Morse and unanimously approved.

The Chair made a second motion that *"the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for this Commission to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting. I further move that this Commission may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line, and that the public may access this meeting by Microsoft Teams online platform or by calling: 1-571-429-5982, phone conference ID: 915 367 261#. The phone number for ADA is 711. Access information is also available at the TAC website at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings".* It was seconded by Commissioner Morse and unanimously approved by the Commission.

The Chair made a third motion that *"all of the matters on the agenda previously furnished and posted on the TAC website are necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of this Commission's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities".* It was seconded by Commissioner Thiel and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Minutes

A motion to accept the August meeting notes was made by Commissioner Morse and seconded by Commissioner Sitnik and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Proposed Changes for Street Trees in Tysons, Transit Station Areas, and Community Revitalization Districts/Areas – Joint Initiative between the Department of Planning and Development (DPP) and Urban Forestry

Mr. Keightley presented the proposed changes for street trees in the Tysons, transit station areas, and community revitalization districts/areas to the Commission. The objective of the street trees program is to increase tree canopy in some of the more densely populated areas of Fairfax County. Landscape requirements were not adopted until the 1980s. Many of the older areas of the County are devoid of trees or vegetation. Evidence shows that street trees act as traffic calming, help define pedestrian space and contribute to a "complete street." Unshaded impervious surface increases urban heat island. These barren areas often overlap with more vulnerable populations.

The tree conservation ordinance is triggered once a specified amount of soil is moved. The County specifies a required tree canopy. The County has established a way to incentivize cooperation from developers. The County manual of protocols (PFM) for development specifies the standards for tree canopy and incentivizes canopy credit for trees in right-of-way. If a developer meets all manual requirements, the developer receives a 50 percent canopy bonus

credit. These standards can be difficult to meet in older neighborhoods. If a developer meets the soil volumes requirement of the PFM but not all, the developer gets full credit. The third tree planting standard will give some credit for non-compliance. This incentive-disincentive approach gives the urban forestry division some input into the implementation of tree planting, where now the agency would have no input. Hopefully, this program will promote tree planting. The remainder of the presentation focused on the technical details of the PFM planting standards. The discussion focused on enforcement of the maintenance agreements with VDOT, who has the right-of-way authority on most County streets and roads, and preservation requirements, as properties are redeveloped.

Public Comment Period

Since there were no members of the public present, there were no comments.

Agenda for Meeting with Board of Supervisors (BOS)

The scheduled September 30 meeting with the BOS has been delayed until later in 2022 or early 2023. The primary topic will be to discuss Additional Measures of Effectiveness (AMOE) for measuring automobile throughput. Supervisors and Commissioners will also have the opportunity to raise priority issues that they wish to discuss.

TAC Transportation Achievement Awards

The 2021 Achievement Award will be presented at an upcoming BOS meeting in 2022. The target date for the presentation is November 1, 2022.

The 2022 Achievement Award selection committee was chosen, and a timeline for solicitation of Award candidates was determined. The Chair of the committee will be Commissioner Hancock. He will be joined on the committee by Commissioners Hoskin and Garton. The solicitation for nominations will be sent out promptly, with submissions due by December 16. The committee will make its recommendations to the TAC at the January 17, 2023 meeting.

Other Business and Announcements

The Chair's report and Commissioners' were noted.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.