



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 – June 16, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic

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

Note-Taker: Mike Champness

Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) Members in Attendance: Chair Jeff Parnes (Sully), Vice Chair Mike Champness (Dranesville), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Linda Sperling (At-Large), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Pete Sitnik (Mt. Vernon), Jd Walter (Providence) and Mary Pauline Jones (Disability Services Board).

TAC Members Absent: Eric Thiel (Springfield).

Others in Attendance: Calvin Lam (FCDOT), Brent Riddle (FCDOT).

Opening Remarks of Chair, Roll Call, and Electronic Meeting and FOIA Procedures

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Parnes at 7:30 p.m. To fulfill procedural obligations of virtual meetings, Chairman Parnes laid out the rationale for the virtual meeting and confirmed the attendance of Commissioners and the location from which they were participating. Chairman Parnes then passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Champness so he could make a motion to confirm communications connectivity among the Commissioners. Chairman Parnes' motion was seconded by Commissioners Sitnik and Hoskin. Each of the attending Commissioners were asked to respond when polled to confirm their ability to hear the proceedings, which all did in turn.

After the vote, Vice Chairman Champness returned the gavel to Chairman Parnes to establish the nature of the emergency that compelled the need for a virtual meeting. After describing why this vote was required, Chairman Parnes returned the gavel to Vice Chairman Champness so he could make a motion to establish the nature of the emergency and secure the agreement of the Commission to proceed. Chairman Parnes' motion was seconded by Commissioner Morse. Each of the attending Commissioners were asked to respond when polled to confirm their approval of Chairman Parnes' motion that it is necessary and appropriate that the Commission meet virtually rather than in person, which all did in turn.

After this vote, Vice Chairman Champness returned the gavel to Chairman Parnes to entertain a motion to accept the agenda for this meeting. Vice Chairman Champness made this motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Sitnik. The motion was passed by voice vote acclimation with no nay votes or abstentions.

Agenda and Discussion Topics

Discussion of the Metrorail Orange and Silver Lines Shut Down – Brent Riddle, FCDOT

A copy of the briefing that was presented to the TAC, and upon which these notes are based, is attached. The title of the briefing is “[Alternate Service Plans during Reconstruction of Orange Line Stations and Silver Line Work in Fairfax County, Summer 2020](#)”. The presentation is available on the TAC webpage.

Mr. Riddle discussed Phase II of the Metrorail Platform Improvement Project; an overview of the Orange Line platform project; the structure and timing of, and the rationale behind, the expanded summer shutdown; and Metrobus, Arlington Transit and Fairfax Connector service alternatives.

Mr. Riddle also discussed Metro public outreach strategies. He reported that Metrorail had received \$870M in federal CARES Act funding, and that Fairfax County has received a \$26M credit against its FY21 contribution to Metro funding. To prevent a recurrence of the lack of notice Fairfax County received regarding Metro’s plan to accelerate Silver Line work to take advantage of the lesser rider demand during the pandemic, Supervisors Alcorn and Palchik have been engaging in regular conference calls with Metro staff. The Tysons Partnership is surveying its members regarding their plans to begin inviting their employees back to work.

Commissioner Morse asked if shuttle service would be available at the beginning and end of each day. Mr. Riddle responded in the affirmative, saying that buses would be operating all day and that Metro has extra buses on stand-by if needed. Mr. Riddle also said that bus ridership is still at 5% of pre-pandemic levels, and that even though having to maintain social distancing protocols is slowing construction progress, the Orange Line work is expected to be completed by Labor Day. The Silver Line work is expected to be finished earlier, perhaps as soon as early August.

Mr. Riddle commented that before the COVID pandemic, the Silver Line was the fastest growing segment of the Metrorail system. This led Commissioner Morse to raise the issue of Silver Line rider projections and how they are tracking with actual rider results. He then suggested the TAC get a briefing from Fairfax EDA regarding the Silver Line’s impact on Fairfax County’s economy.

Adoption of the revised TAC Bylaws – Commissioner Walter

Commissioner Walter presented the report of the March 3, 2020 TAC Working Session of the Bylaws Committee. Commissioners briefly discussed the bylaws and raised no issues or concerns regarding their content. Because this agenda item was a report from a Committee Chair, it was discussed under an automatic motion to approve that did not require a second. The Commission adopted the bylaws unanimously by voice vote, clearing them to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for its approval. A copy of the approved [bylaws](#) is attached to these minutes. The bylaws is available on the TAC webpage.

Comment & Feedback on Previous Meeting’s Presentation

The primary presentation topic at the previous meeting was the Metrorail Silver Line Phase II Bus Service Reconfiguration project. Commissioners had no additional comments or feedback to provide at this time.



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Committee on Planning for the Future – Commissioner Champness

Commissioner Champness noted that the TAC had planned to discuss transportation demand management (TDM) and ways to encourage greater reliance on teleworking at its March 17 meeting that was cancelled due to the pandemic. Because of the pandemic, of course, teleworking was widely adopted effectively overnight. The challenge now is to ensure its continued extensive use even as the pandemic fades and employees can return to their places of work.

Commissioner Champness reported he has been discussing this challenge with a group of TDM stakeholders with whom he has been holding informal discussions during the pandemic. He said he has also raised the issue with fellow participants on the Greater Washington Board of Trade Connected DMV COVID Strategic Renewal Task Force. He noted that if the Orange and Silver Line work is completed as discussed tonight, Metrorail would be available if needed this fall.

After an introduction by Chairman Parnes, Commissioner Champness contacted the staff of Virginia State Delegate Karrie Delaney. Commissioner Champness reported that he would set up a virtual meeting with Delegate Delaney, her staff, and Chairman Parnes to discuss transportation futures issues and possible opportunities for future collaboration.

Acceptance of the February 18, 2020 Meeting Notes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting was made by Commissioner Sitnik, and seconded by Commissioner Hoskin. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote without change.

Public Comment Period

There were no requests from any members of the public to speak at the meeting.

Proposed Topics for Future Meetings

Commissioners generally expressed their desire for the TAC to resume in-person meetings in July, although Commissioner Sitnik expressed his willingness to continue meeting virtually in the future as he found it to be an effective way to hold meetings. If the TAC is to hold a virtual meeting in July, it would be because the topics are of sufficient urgency.

Chairman Parnes asked Mr. Lam to ask if Fairfax EDA would be willing to give a presentation to the TAC regarding the economic impact of the Silver Line on Fairfax County at the July meeting.

Commissioners discussed having an update on the proceedings of the Virginia General Assembly in August, but because the Assembly has been out of session for a while the topic could easily be delayed until the TAC meets in September or October.

Commissioner Champness informed the TAC that he had talked to Anna Nissinen, the Chief of Communications, Marketing, and TDM Programs for FCDOT (who had conferred with FCDOT Director Tom Biesiadny), and they agreed that the Anna would be invited to present the results of TDM surveys at the September meeting of the TAC.

Other possible TAC meeting topics are listed below:

- Presentation on Implementation and Results of Fairfax Commuter Routes 698 and 699/Discussion of alternate bus service during summer Orange Line shut down
- General Assembly Update
- WMATA Blue/Orange/Silver Lines Optimization
- WMATA Bus Transformation Project
- Tour of the VDOT Operations Center at the McConnell Public Safety & Transportation Operations Center - Contingent upon the COVID-19 situation.
- Visit and Review Mosaic District Autonomous Bus Service (CIB Group) - Contingent upon the COVID-19 situation
- Shared Mobility Devices (On 19 November 2019, the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance governing the use of SMDs, effective January 1, 2020)
- Conversation with Uber, Lyft, and Via
- Joint meeting date with the Planning Commission's Transportation Committee on what their vision is for future development and any changes in planning and zoning guidelines that may be needed to account for future work environment given the pace and impacts of technology advances

Other Business

No other business was presented to the Commission for consideration.

Announcements and Adjournment

Chairman Parnes said that he intends to attend the Board Transportation Committee Meeting on June 30, 2020.

Commissioner Walter announced that he had not yet been re-nominated to serve on the TAC, but that regardless he would be moving from Fairfax County in January and would resign from the TAC at that time. After a brief discussion regarding the re-nominations of Commissioners, Chairman Parnes suggested Commissioners contact their district Supervisors to check on the status of their re-nominations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.



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Upcoming Events/Other Meetings:

June 30, 2020	3:00 pm	Board Transportation Committee Meeting
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Upcoming TAC Meetings:

July 7, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
July 21, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
August 4, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
August 18, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
September 1, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
September 15, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
October 6, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
October 20, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
November 3, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
November 17, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
December 1, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
December 15, 2020	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)