



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 – 7:30 PM, January 15, 2019

Location: Fairfax County DOT, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Conf. Rooms 400.06 & 400.08
Fairfax, Virginia 22033

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

Note-Taker: Lew Brodsky

TAC Members in Attendance: Chairman Jeff Parnes (Sully), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Mike Champness (Dranesville), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Eric Thiel (Springfield), and Lew Brodsky (Lee).

TAC Members Absent: Vice Chairman Jennifer Joy Madden (Hunter Hill), Linda Sperling (At-Large), Vincent Fusaro (Mount Vernon), and Mary- Pauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board). The Providence District commissioner position remains vacant.

Others in Attendance: Dwayne Pelfrey, Chief of Transportation Division, FCDOT; and Calvin Lam, TAC support staff, FCDOT.

Agenda and Discussion Topics

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Parnes at 7:35 p.m. Initially, a quorum was not present; however, with the subsequent arrival of Commissioners Hoskin and Morse, the Chairman noted the presence of a quorum.

Fairfax Connector and Metrobus Plans for Alternative Service during WMATA's Reconstruction of Blue/Yellow Lines South of Reagan National Airport Station – Dwayne Pelfrey (FCDOT)

The Chairman introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Pelfrey, who presented an hour-long briefing. The presentation will be available online at:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings>) on the subject of transportation alternatives (with a focus on bus service) planned for the summertime closure of six Metrorail stations on the Blue and Yellow Lines.

The stations will close for 101 days, from May 25 to Sept. 2, 2019; followed by “single tracking” of the Blue Line between Van Dorn Street and Franconia-Springfield from Sept. 3 to 29, 2019. A paper copy of the slides used for this briefing is attached to these notes. Mr. Pelfrey’s briefing was developed primarily by WMATA but included FCDOT input. He said that he would be presenting the briefing to the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee at its meeting on Feb. 12, 2019.



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During his presentation to the TAC, comments were exchanged about the scope and impact of the “shutdown” and the content of some of the briefing slides. Highlights:

- The urgent need for replacement/repair results from age deterioration of a system built in the 1970s and the failure of outdoor concrete platforms due to decades of weathering. There are 91 Metrorail stations in the system; 45 of these are outdoors; 10 have already been rebuilt; 20 are in need of rebuilding—including the six Blue/Yellow Lines stations in the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County south of National Airport impacted by the summer closures. The other impacted stations (of the 20) were not identified by name in this briefing, nor was there mention of a repair schedule for them. Mr. Pelfrey said we have reached the point where repair work can no longer be deferred, and that it is “safer and cheaper” to do the necessary work all at once during summer months, rather than stretching it out over a long period of time.
- Primary means of providing alternate transportation during station closures will be to expand bus service, although it is recognized that busses cannot even begin to equal the passenger capacity of rail... “Not even close,” he said.
- This will require the use of busses from multiple jurisdictions. In addition to beefing up existing Metrobus routes, new, no-fare, “shuttle” routes will be added to provide passengers with non-rail options to key destinations. It is expected there will also be many more single-driver car commutes, and heavy use of Uber, Lyft, car-pooling, taxis, DASH, VRE, and even Alexandria’s Water Taxi service during the closures. Concern was expressed about all the added vehicular traffic and where to park the additional cars at employment and tourist site locations. Also, WMATA is fearful that inconvenienced riders forced to use other modes of travel won’t return to rail travel when the stations re-open, so maintaining good public relations and communications is a key part of the repair and rebuild project.
- The impact of Amazon’s move into Crystal City is not known vis-à-vis station closures. Timing of Amazon’s move-in is uncertain and will probably not impact until after the repair and rebuild period. Mr. Pelfrey said he would look into the possible effects in preparation for his presentation to the Board of Supervisors.
- Briefing slides 8, 11 & 12 showed proposed changes to bus routes and additional free shuttle bus services to be added during the closures. Four free shuttle routes are described. Commissioner Brodsky noted that proposed Shuttle Routes 1 & 2 would get riders from the Franconia/Springfield rail station to the Pentagon and National Airport, but they would have to change shuttles en route to reach Crystal City and Pentagon City (thus, concern about “Amazon” people living in Lee District having no direct route to Crystal City). Mr. Pelfrey noted this, but also noted that it will be a faster ride for Shuttle Route 1 users taking the bus from Franconia/Springfield to the Pentagon than via their usual Metrorail commute. Slide 10 listed “System Impact” of the station closures with regard to rail riders. Commissioner Brodsky noted this briefing does not address the adverse economic impact that will be felt by the retail community...so many hotels, shops, restaurants, etc., are located at and around these rail stations. Mr. Pelfrey said the WMATA/FCDOT focuses only on “ridership impacts.” He assumes the Supervisors and others are dealing separately with the adverse impact on the retail/commercial community. Commissioner Champness suggested that slide 12 did not effectively differentiate current vs. expanded or modified Metrobus service. He suggested that the chart be re-done to show, side-by-side, how each of the current Metrobus routes is operating now and how they will change during the Metro station closures. Commissioner Champness also suggested that perhaps there should be a separate chart to show the four new,



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“free” shuttle bus routes/schedules operating during the rail station closures, since these shuttle routes all provide new service.

- Slides 13 and 14 showed the current bus stop areas at the Franconia/Springfield, Huntington, and Van Dorn rail stations. The existing bus stops at Franconia/Springfield will handle the added busses and the added shuttle service; however, there is some concern about how to handle bus access at Huntington: the existing northern bus stop area will become a staging area for the contractors doing the rail station rebuilding. There will be no way for pedestrians to cross from the Huntington northern garages to the southern bus area. One solution: Fairfax Connector is planning to run shuttles to operate on a 10-minute loop to move commuters from the northern parking garages to the southern bus areas. Commissioner Hoskin suggested that the shuttle might need to operate more frequently. Likewise, the City of Alexandria is developing a plan to handle disrupted parking and bus stop access at Van Dorn.
- It was mentioned that additional police and traffic control will have to be employed in and around the affected stations.
- Mr. Pelfrey thanked the TAC for its comments and suggestions. He said he would make some modifications and clarifications prior to presenting the briefing to the BOS Transportation Committee next month.

Approval of the Minutes

Following the briefing, Chairman Parnes asked for and received acceptance of the minutes from the December TAC meeting.

Comment & Feedback on Previous Meetings’ Presentations

The Chairman then asked if any Commissioners had comments or feedback on the discussion of the Futures Planning Working Group at the last TAC meeting. No Commissioners had any comments, but a few noted that it was hard for all Commissioners to hear the presentation at the winter holiday meeting conducted at Duangrat's Thai restaurant.

TAC Subcommittee on Planning for the Future Working Meeting

Commissioner Champness was then asked by the chairman to provide an update on the status of the Futures Planning Working Group. Commissioner Champness briefly recapped the discussion during the previous TAC meeting, and confirmed that the next meeting of the Futures WG will take place on January 22, where the topic will be a presentation from FCDOT staff on the “Curbside Management Study” underway for Tysons Corner and Reston.

Commissioner Champness said the Working Group is “trying to understand and help shape what happens, in preparation for eventually reaching out to the Planning and Zoning Commission.” The Working Group wants to be sure the study looks at managing the “real estate” along the curbs of streets in quasi-urban areas, and not just look at parking control. To this end, the WG has asked Mr. Lam to send a link to the Institute of Transportation Engineers Curbside Management Practitioners Guide to the FCDOT staff in preparation for the meeting. Because of pressing TAC



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business at the beginning of 2019, this will be a working group review, rather than involving the whole TAC. Commissioner Champness closed by noting that the Working Group is planning to provide an update on its progress to the BOS at its Transportation Committee meeting in May, with a review of the proposed presentation by the whole TAC at the April meeting.

Planned Agenda for next meeting

The TAC discussed potential meeting agenda topics, as follows:

It was decided that the June 2019 TAC meeting will include a presentation on the Express Lanes Project and Fairfax Commuter Routes 698 and 699. The July meeting will focus on Bus Rapid Transit and the August meeting will receive an update on the County taxi program.

- **February 19, 2019:** Capital One's New Headquarters in Tysons and Transportation Demand Management Issues – Tom Biesiadny (FCDOT)

Topics for Future Meetings

- **March 19, 2019:** MWAA – State of Dulles International and Reagan National Airports – Michael Cooper (MWAA)
- **April 16, 2019:** Finalize next TAC Subcommittee on Planning for the Future report to the BOS
- **May 21, 2019:** Legislative Session update
- **June 18, 2019:** Presentation on Implementation and Results of Express Lanes Project and Fairfax Commuter Route 698 and 699
- **July 16, 2019:** Bus Rapid Transit Studies in Fairfax County
- **August 20, 2019:** Update on the County Taxicab Program
- **TBD:** 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

Chairman Parnes and Commissioner Morse reported they attended a public meeting run by VDOT on Jan. 7 at Robinson Secondary School, Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The purpose of the session was to show plans and solicit public input for widening a six-mile stretch of the Fairfax County Parkway between US Rt. 29 and VA Rt. 123. The meeting drew a capacity crowd of about 300 people, many more than was anticipated. There was great public concern voiced (with several solutions offered) about what to do at the troublesome and dangerous intersection of the FC Parkway and Burke Centre Parkway. The idea of doing away with the traffic light at that intersection, and restricting access to northbound-only "right turn in; right



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turn out” received vehement objections from the community, and there is no money in the budget for a flyover, which would cost \$20-30 million.

Announcements and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Upcoming Events/Other Meetings:

February 12, 2019	3:00 pm	Board Transportation Committee Meeting
March 26, 2019	1:30 pm	Board Transportation Committee Meeting
May 14, 2019	9:30 am	Board Transportation Committee Meeting
July 9, 2019	9:30 am	Board Transportation Committee Meeting

Upcoming TAC Meetings:

February 5, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
February 19, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
March 5, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
March 19, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
April 2, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
April 16, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
May 7, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
May 21, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
June 4, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
June 18, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
July 2, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
July 16, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
August 6, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
August 20, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
September 3, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
September 17, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
October 1, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
October 15, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
November 5, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
November 19, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
December 3, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
December 17, 2019	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)