



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 15, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic

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

Note-Taker: Eric Thiel

TAC Members in Attendance: Chair Mike Champness (Dranesville), Vice Chair MaryPauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Vacant (Lee), Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon), Jeremy Hancock (Providence) and Eric Thiel (Springfield).

TAC Members Absent: Linda Sperling (At-Large) and M. David Skiles (Sully).

Others in Attendance: Maggie Gendron (Greater Washington Partnership), FCDOT staff: Brittany Nixon, Anna Nissinen, Marcus Moore, and Calvin Lam.

Special Guests/Observers: Doug Pickford, President and CEO, Dulles Area Transportation Association; Ronit Dancis, Director of TMA, Tysons Partnership, and Alexis Glenn, President of the Jefferson Manor Citizens Association.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Champness at 7:34 p.m. To fulfill procedural obligations of virtual meetings, Chair Champness and Secretary Hoskin performed the same opening procedures as was accomplished during the July 21, 2020 meeting. The meeting notes from the August 18th meeting were presented and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) Officer Elections

MaryPauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board) was elected to the position of Vice Chair, and Roger Hoskin was elected to the position of Secretary by a unanimous voice vote.

Fairfax County Commuter Services Update Impacts of COVID-19

Ms. Anna Nissinen and Mr. Marcus Moore, Communications, Marketing and TDM Programs Section Fairfax County Department of Transportation presented a briefing on Covid-19's impacts on traffic flow and included related information on Traffic Demand Management (TDM).

TDM's goal in the County is aimed at reducing Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) trips which in turn reduces peak vehicle trip volume. The County attempts to reach commuters at key touchpoints

such as at work, social media, etc., to inform the commuters about their transit options. The County works with employers and develops customized plans with them to reach employees. The current pandemic has produced a large increase in the telework component of TDM (www.teleworkva.org has relevant information.). Before Spring 2020, approximately 500,000 employees in Fairfax County had some level of opportunity to participate in TDM at 1,600 employer sites. Since then, telework has become the primary response across the employers in the County to aid with social distancing and related Covid-19 responses.

Telework has always been important to TDM as it has the highest impact on SOV use and peak trip rates. During the pandemic telework has clearly had a huge impact on TDM and traffic overall. Businesses that have been able to telework appear satisfied and some are making moves to reduce total office space.

Some businesses, INOVA and other medical services providers, cannot make heavy use of telework. In response, the County has kept key bus routes (70% of key Fairfax Connector Lifeline routes) and services in place and maintained ridership of 30%. By comparison, Metro is down to 5%. County staff are working on plans to both ramp up services, and maintain some of the TDM achievements imposed by pandemic responses.

MWCOG surveys indicated that 96% of employer sites had reduced staffing or shut down entirely. Pre-pandemic, 36% of employees used telework options, and post-pandemic start (March 2020) 86% of employees were using telework.

FCDOT is continuously monitoring the state of TDM and telework and there is likely to be permanent impacts of increased use of telework after the pandemic. On a cautionary note, funding for governmental support to TDM is likely to be impacted by budget issues driven by pandemic impacts on tax revenues.

Capitol Covid-19 Snapshot

Ms. Maggie Gendron, Transportation Manager for Greater Washington Partnership. Employers want to know what other employers are doing, and how to make telework effective, safe, etc. Recent survey data indicate that only 72% of employers expect to return to normal office operations and onsite staff levels by summer 2021. Largest expected challenges involve how to maintain social distancing on transit systems.

<https://www.greaterwashingtonpartnership.com/capital-covid-snapshot/>

Proffer/Development Presentation

Ms. Brittany Nixon, FCDOT, presented a summary of the Proffer process associated with new developments in the County to provide TDM at new development sites. Staff have created a standardize process with multiple “menu” items that can be easily adapted to different businesses and sites. The process is collaborative between the County and the developers and business tenants. Trip reduction rates are established and agreed to with developers—usually based on proximity to transit such as Metro. Enforcement, such as in Tyson’s, can have financial impacts. Covid-19 has disrupted TDM measurement and implementation and the County is looking at ways to compensate for impacts as we return to normal in 2021.



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Public Comment Period

There were no members of the public attending the meeting who wished to speak.

Other Business and Announcements

Commissioners discussed the TAC role as advisors to the Board of Supervisors, to include the importance of maintaining visibility into projects, and to not allow the TAC to become singularly focused on TDM and telework. Commissioners also discussed FCDOT Director Biesiadny's offer to sponsor a TAC Work Plan priorities development facilitated working session. Chair Champness and Vice Chair Jones will take the lead to make recommendations to the TAC for the structure and content for the working session. Commissioner Sitnik volunteered to become the TAC liaison to the Trails, Sidewalks, and Bikeways Committee, and will investigate the steps needed to do this.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Proposed Topics for Future Meetings

- **October 20, 2020:** Update on curbside management study – Henri Stein McCartney (FCDOT)
- Follow-on TDM discussions
- Facilitated TAC Work Plan Priorities Development Working Session
- Presentation on Implementation Results of Fairfax Connector Routes 697, 698 and 699
- General Assembly Special Session Update
- Review results of EDA Richmond Highway Corridor market assessment (end of 2020)
- Tour of the VDOT Operations Center at the McConnell Public Safety & Transportation Operations Center (Contingent upon COVID-19 situation)
- Visit and Review Mosaic District Autonomous Shuttle Service (Contingent upon COVID-19 situation)
- Shared Mobility Devices (SMDs) (November 19, 2019 – Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance governing the use of SMDs, effective January 1, 2020)
- Conversation with Uber, Lyft, and Via
- Joint meeting with Planning Commission's Transportation Committee to discuss future development and any changes that might be needed in planning and zoning guidelines to account for ways in which technology advances impact the future work environment.

Upcoming Events/Other Meetings:

Board Transportation Committee Meetings

- **November 10, 2020 at 1:30 pm**
- **December 8, 2020 at 9:30 am**

Upcoming TAC Meetings:

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)
January 5, 2021	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
January 19, 2021	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
February 2, 2021	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
February 16, 2021	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)