



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 – February 16, 2021, 7:30 p.m.

Held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic

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

Note-Taker: Alexis Glenn

TAC Members in Attendance: Chair Mike Champness (Dranesville), Vice Chair MaryPauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Linda Sperling (At-Large), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Kelly Westenhoff (Hunter Mill), Alexis Glenn (Lee), Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon), Jeremy Hancock (Providence) and Eric Thiel (Springfield).

TAC Members Absent: M. David Skiles (Sully).

Others in Attendance: Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer, One Fairfax. FCDOT staff: Dwayne Pelfrey, Chief, Transit Services Division, Fairfax Connector; Michael Felschow, Planning Section Chief, Transit Services Division, Fairfax Connector; Anna Nissinen, Chief of Communications, Marketing and TDM Programs; Tom Biesiadny, Director; Brent Riddle, and Calvin Lam.

Special Guests/Observers: N/A

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 Vice Chair Jones performed the opening procedures for a virtual meeting via WebEx. The public can access the meeting by dialing one of the numbers below: 1-844-621-3956 or 1-415-655-0001 and entering the Access Code: 179 291 9516. To join as an *attendee*, go to the link below:

<https://fairfax.webex.com/fairfax/onstage/g.php?MTID=ea410cb6b382f55588bc86762b28ed7fa>

Meeting recording and materials will be posted online at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings

The location of each member was announced by voice because they are participating remotely from their private residence.

- Chair Michael Champness (Chair) – McLean
- Vice Chair MaryPauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board) – Herndon
- Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason) – Falls Church
- Linda Sperling (At-Large) – Clifton

- Kevin Morse (Braddock) – Burke
- Kelly Westenhoff (Hunter Mill) – Reston
- Alexis Glenn (Lee) – Alexandria
- Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon) – Mount Vernon
- Jeremy Hancock (Providence) – Falls Church
- Eric Thiel (Springfield) – Fairfax Station

Consideration of the meeting notes from the November and December meetings were postponed until the February meeting. The November meeting notes were not considered. The meeting notes from the December and January meetings were adopted en bloc unanimously.

Review of Fairfax County One Fairfax Policy

Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer, One Fairfax, briefed the Commission on the key elements of the One Fairfax policy. Discussions are as follows:

- Human services in Fairfax County are active on an individual level. It does not take into consideration the structures that surround communities.
- Transportation is a key opportunity area.
- Ms. Bruce’s role is in part to help the County build up the resources to identify the challenges and deploy the solutions to address equity issues that are both applicable and effective across policy areas and connection to policy areas that overlap.
- Race, place and income are the key predictors of success and opportunity.
- TAC will receive further materials that go in depth into concepts presented tonight.
- FCDOT representatives identified as equity leads - Anna Nissinen is one such representative in FCDOT.
- Targeted Universalism: Abandoning “one-size-fits-all” policies.
- Community engagement example of a process change as a result of One Fairfax policy; impacted groups really need to be engaged, not just getting feedback from whomever shows up to a meeting.
- Housing is another example; Board identified a need to invest in more affordable housing; COVID has impacted these efforts.

Pandemic Impacts and Changes on Fairfax Connector Service

Dwayne Pelfrey, Chief, Transit Services Division, Fairfax Connector, briefed the Commission on the pandemic impacts and changes to the Connector services. Discussion are as follows:

- Bus service is fully restored since service cuts related to the pandemic in late August 2020.
- 75% ridership loss at beginning of pandemic.
- Today, averaging 400,000 bus rides per month; long haul/commuter routes recovering much slower than local routes.
- Saturday bus ridership is at 90% to pre-pandemic levels, indicator of how vital bus service is.
- Expectation for telework to decrease after pandemic but will remain higher than pre-pandemic level.
- Google data is showing FFX Connector schedules.
- Strategic Plan due in early 2022; 2,600 survey comments so far.

Public Comment Period

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

Other Business and Announcements

Chairman Champness stated that he had consulted the County Attorney regarding the FOIA regulations. TAC members cannot discuss agenda over email nor use Google docs. The agenda will be shared, Commissioners can only respond one-on-one; if something needs to be shared, send to Calvin Lam and copy the Chair.

Commissioners discussed the agenda for the upcoming work session, as well as the February meeting:

- Tentative Off-Site date: February 27, 2021; Supervisor Water Alcorn, (Board of supervisor Transportation Committee Chair) and Deputy County Executive Rachel Flynn are available that day.
- DMV hydrogen initiative, TAC will get update at a future time.
- Commissioner Morse noted “If You Lived Here” WETA series; question about Uber discussion.
- Commissioner Westenhoff working on Hunter Mill bike ride similar to Tour de Mt. Vernon. The date is May 18, 2021. She informed that the WebEx technical issues are not resolved by February 27th, she will not be able to participate in the Off-Site meeting.
- Mr. Lam has been told that the County uses Webex because of its webinar capability, and it is a free tool for the department. Some other commissions are using Zoom. Mr. Lam will explore options.

- Commissioner Sitnik mentioned a good FCDOT/VDOT pedestrian safety study meeting held with MVCCA. He will share slides with the Chair and Mr. Lam.
- Commissioner Hancock noted Greater Washington Partnership study out about commuting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.