



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 – July 20, 2021 at 7:30 pm

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: Kevin Morse

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

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

Others in Attendance: FCDOT staff Tom Biesiadny, Noelle Dominguez, Nicole Wynands, Lauren Delmare, and Calvin Lam.

Special Guests/Observers: N/A

Opening Remarks

The meeting in person was called to order by Chair Champness at 7:43 p.m. Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. It was seconded by Commissioner Theil and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Active Fairfax Plan

Nicole Wynands and Lauren Delmare, FCDOT, updated the Commission on the Board's feedback on their presentation at the Board Transportation Committee on June 29, 2021.

The feedback from the Board was overall positive. The Board comments on the vision/goals/objectives included the need for maintenance of existing system, reduction of cost and faster implementation of new facilities, protection of environmental resources, focus on network connectivity, and funding prioritization. Phase Two of the project includes the development of strategies and metrics.

The Safe Streets for All Program was presented to the BTC on June 29, 2021. The Board requested the project team to address the following issues: a branding and communication strategy, a context-sensitive approach to street design (no one size fits all), a user-friendly crash

data dashboard, bike/ped facility usage data, prioritization of the recommendations, and cost estimates for projects.

Next steps for Active Fairfax include carryover request for \$450,000 for Phase Two, a \$50,000 task order will keep Safe Streets for All Program planning moving toward utilizing FCDOT funds, public engagement on Active Fairfax vision, goals and objectives, Safe Streets for All Program plan in August/September, documents available for public review on the project website, virtual public information meetings, and one small, targeted group conversation per human service region. Development of action steps will be postponed until Fall 2021. The next presentation to the Board will be in October or November 2021.

Arlington County sets an example for data collection. The County also has access to “streetlight” data which pings cell phone data to provide velocity information for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles. Safe Streets will be kept separated from Active Fairfax. Staff requested input from the Board and TAC regarding Safe Streets priorities.

Chair Champness asked about the differences between Safe Streets and Complete Streets. Staff stated that Complete Streets is designed for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles while Safe Streets’ goal is to reduce injuries and fatalities. Both concepts are related in terms of safety for all users. Chair Champness suggested using “complete streets are safer streets” as a way to connect the two efforts. Commissioner Thiel noted that newer and more expensive (and thereby safer) vehicles cost less to insure than older and less expensive vehicles. Safety numbers were down during COVID-19 because of less traffic. More traffic means slower speeds and fewer accidents. The same principle holds for pedestrians and bicyclists. There is safety in numbers.

The Board will act on the \$450,000 funding request for Phase Two of Active Fairfax on September 14, 2021. Chair Champness asked for comments or language for a new resolution supporting the \$450,000 carryover request.

Participation in TAC Meetings by Electronic Communication

Noelle Dominguez, FCDOT, briefed the TAC on the changes in the policy regarding remote meetings for TAC members. The TAC must meet open meeting requirements and establish a quorum. Two Commissioners can discuss business, but not more than two without falling under meeting requirements. Hybrid meetings can no longer exist due to the policy. The TAC will need a minimum of six (6) Commissioners physically present to establish a quorum. A TAC member can request to use remote participation due:

- a. A temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance or
- b. A family member's medical condition requires the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance or
- c. A personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the personal matter.

Remote participation due to a personal matter is limited each calendar year to two meetings or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. There is no limit to the number of times that a member may participate remotely due

to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition or that of a family member that requires the member to provide care.

A Commissioner can send a request to the Chair before the meeting. The remote attendee's voice must be able to be heard by all TAC members. The meeting can also be chaired remotely if the above conditions are met. Commissioner Hoskin moved to pass the remote participation resolution. It was seconded by Commissioner Sitnik and unanimously approved by the Commission. Commissioners were asked to notify FCDOT Director Tom Biesiadny as soon as possible if they are unable to be physically present. Mr. Biesiadny designated Mr. Lam as his designee for notification purposes.

Election of TAC Officers for 2021-2022 Terms

Vice Chair Jones nominated Chair Champness for the Chair position for the 2021-2022 term. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sitnik and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Public Comment Period

There were no members of the public attending the meeting.

Other Business and Announcements

Commissioner Sitnik stated that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc. (MVCCA) has sent a letter to Supervisor Storck to object to recently learned details of the Richmond Highway widening designs. MVCCA expressed strong concerns about the expansion to 12 lanes conflicts with Complete Streets visions. They would like to reduce the lane width to a maximum of 10 lanes which would be closer to the original goals of Embark Richmond Highway. They wanted to delay preliminary design approval by the Board. Mr. Biesiadny stated that in the corridor five locations have proposed 11 lanes, one location has 12 lanes, and two locations have 13 lanes. The proposed design only exceeds a 10-lane width at eight locations. After a lengthy discussion, the TAC offered a resolution to urge the Board that as they consider the preliminary design of the Richmond Highway BRT project they urge VDOT and FCDOT to have further discussion with the community regarding turn lanes and sound walls. Commissioner Westenhoff moved to pass the resolution. It was seconded by Commissioner Hoskin. There was 6 Commissioner to vote "yes" in favor of the resolution. There was 1 "nay" vote by Commissioner Morse, and 2 abstention votes from Commissioners Thiel and Jones.

Chair Report

- Updated the TAC on his discussion with Supervisor Foust
- Attended ribbon cutting of Tysons Blvd Partial Closure for bike lane

Commissioners' Updates

- Commissioner Glenn: Cinderbed project: bikeway trail near Franconia-Springfield Metro
- Commissioner Westenhoff: Bike FABB project
- Agenda for July TAC meeting

- Election of TAC Officers

Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn at 10:30 pm. It was seconded by Commissioner Morse and unanimously approved by the Commission.