



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 October 17, 2023, at 7:30 pm

Location: Fairfax County Department of Transportation
4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Conf. Rooms: 400.06 & 400.08, Fairfax, VA 22033

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

Note-Taker: Roger Hoskin

TAC Members in Attendance: Chair Mike Champness (Dranesville), Vice Chair Jeremy Hancock (Providence), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Adwoa Rey (At Large), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Matt Bechak (Franconia), Phylicia Woods (Hunter Mill), Peter Weyland (Mount Vernon), Eric Thiel (Springfield) and Christie Garton (Fairfax Area Disabilities Service Board).

TAC Members Absent: Karen Campblin (Sully).

Note: Commissioner Garton attended the meeting online (her first remote participation for 2023).

Others in Attendance: Cynthia Alarico, Neighborhood and Community Services; Catherine Cole and Mike Perel, Fairfax Area Commission on Aging. FCDOT staff: Sara Allred, and Calvin Lam (Staff Liaison to the TAC).

Special Guests/Observers/Public: N/A

Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chair Champness at 7:43 p.m. The Chair had no Opening Remarks.

Remote Participation Motion

Chair Champness determined that a quorum of the TAC was established at the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Garton had notified staff that she could not attend the meeting in person and requested to participate remotely. Her request was in compliance with the TAC's remote participation policy. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the request. Commissioner Garton was at her residence, and after some initial technical issues, the Commission could hear her voice clearly via a conference call.

Getting Out and About – Human Services Transportation Options & Programs

Cynthia Alarico, Mobility Manager, Human Services Transportation, Neighborhood and Community Services provided a general overview of the services from her department.

This division of Human Services Transportation encompasses five transition services. FASTRAN Services provides specialized transportation for Fairfax County residents participating in agency programs. Residents may apply for the Critical Medical Care Program if they receive ongoing medical care, e.g., dialysis chemotherapy. Fees are on a sliding scale. The TOPS (Transportation Options Programs & Services) assists eligible individuals via a debit card. Participants can use taxis, rideshare services, public transit services, or Capital BikesShare rentals. Participants pay \$20 to receive \$100 in benefits and can get renewals four times in a fiscal year. It can be used for any purpose, not just medical appointments.

SHAPE the Future of Aging-Fairfax Area Commission on Aging

Mike Perel and Catherine Cole from the Commission on Aging (COA) provided a general overview of the programs for older adults.

The Older Americans Act established that local area agencies on aging have community advisory committees. The Fairfax Area Commission on Aging is the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's community advisory committee and has had notable successes in providing services for older adults. This presentation focuses on transition.

The most recent post-Covid survey indicated that the service areas were unchanged but amplified. The result was a five-year plan for each of the Initiative Development Committees: Services for Older Adults and Caregivers, Housing and Neighborhood Support, Access to Mobility, Personal Well-being, and Economic Stability. Guiding principles for these communities are Affordable, Actionable Achievable, Constructive, Creative Community, and Partnerships since local government cannot do everything.

Access to Mobility Options: increase accessibility and walkability, as well as the viability and convenience of non-automobile transportation for older adults. Preliminary committee ideas focused on identifying existing and collecting new data on safe mobility needs and adding a focus on improving safe mobility for older adults still driving. Improve information about services and transportation options.

Topics for discussion were offered. Need data sources identifying safe mobility problems and how to identify priorities and others who could be invited to provide initiative recommendations. There was a lively discussion among the Commissioners and presenters regarding alternatives to driving and public transportation, e.g., goods and services delivery, telemedicine, and remote socialization. Cooperation with faith communities was suggested as a possible source of data.

Approval of the Meeting Summary

The September Meeting Summary was approved.

Discussion of TAC 2023-24 Work Plan Focus Areas

There were nine areas identified, and a Commissioner was associated with each. For some, a team of two Commissioners was associated. The TAC requested FCDOT to identify liaison staff to support each TAC Work Plan Focus Area.

The Mount Vernon Commissioner raised the possibility of constructing a TAC database similar to the database that the South County Council has, which has contact information for other groups, both governmental and private, that could be partners or sources of information that could be useful. This information could be shared. One problem with disseminating the information would be the State Open Meetings Statute. While the idea was attractive, there is a myriad of difficulties of control of information and authority to disseminate that information. An accessible annual report is an alternative avenue to provide information to outside interests.

Establish 2023 TAC Award Selection Committee

The TAC established a committee to select the recipient of the 2023 TAC Transportation Award and set out a timeline for selection. Commissioner Thiel was designated as the Chair of the selection committee.

Public Comment Period: None.

Other Business and Announcements:

The Chair announced that Planning Commissioner Mary Cortina would like to hold a joint meeting between the TAC and the Planning Commission Transportation Committee in early 2024. The Chair said he supported the idea and would work with Commissioner Cortina and the appropriate FCDOT staff to begin planning for the event.

There were then final comments from Commissioners.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Hancock motioned to adjourn, and Commissioner Hoskin seconded it. The motion to adjourn was then approved by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.