



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 18, 2022, at 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

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

Note-Taker: Roger Hoskin

TAC Members in Attendance: Chair Mike Champness (McLean), Vice Chair Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Phylicia Woods (Herndon), and Christy Garton (Fairfax Area Disabilities Services Board – FADSB).

TAC Members Absent: Linda Sperling (At-Large), M. David Skiles (Sully), Jeremy Hancock (Providence), and Eric Thiel (Springfield).

The Lee District position remained vacant.

Others in Attendance: FCDOT staff: Michael Felschow, Planning Section Chief, Transit Service Division; Hejun Kang; Marcus Moore; 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 7:37 pm. The Chair then proceeded with the protocol necessary to justify a virtual meeting.

To fulfill procedural obligations of virtual meetings, Chair Champness and Vice Chair Sitnik performed the opening procedures for a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams. Meeting recordings and materials will be posted online at:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings

The location of each member was announced by voice since they are participating remotely.

- Braddock District: Kevin Morse – Burke
- Dranesville District: Mike Champness (Chair) – McLean
- Hunter Mill District: Phylicia Woods – Herndon
- Mason District: Roger Hoskin (Secretary) – Falls Church
- Mount Vernon District: Pete Sitnik (Vice Chair) – Alexandria

- Fairfax Area Disabilities Services Board: Christie Garton - Fairfax

The Chair made a first motion to *"determine that each member's voice can be adequately heard by each other member of this Commission."* It was seconded by Commissioner Hoskin and unanimously approved.

The Chair made a second motion that *"the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for this Commission to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting. I further move that this Commission may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line, and that the public may access this meeting by Microsoft Teams online platform or by calling: 1-571-429-5982, phone conference ID: 821 800 620#. The phone number for ADA is 711. Access information is also available at the TAC website at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings".* It was seconded by Commissioner Morse and unanimously approved by the Commission.

The Chair made a third motion that *"all of the matters on the agenda previously furnished and posted on the TAC website are necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of this Commission's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities".* It was seconded by Commissioner Hoskin and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Minutes

A motion to accept the September meeting notes was made by Vice Chair Sitnik and seconded by Commissioner Morse. The minutes of September were approved unanimously for technical and conforming revisions.

Bus Services Planning for Equality and Employment Centers

Since 2018, the Virginia General Assembly and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation have required that transportation agencies (like the Fairfax Connector) develop a Transit Strategic Plan (TSP). This Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in 2016. The Strategic Plan is now a 10-year plan updated every five years. The elements of the Plan require an assessment of services for different areas of the County, a review of route performance, identify transit improvements using available funding, find opportunities for expanding services to under-served areas and identify capital, operating and maintenance needs and funding strategy.

The Plan update began with and the outreach effort: a market survey, ascertaining why people do or do not use buses, two rounds of surveys in 2021 and a second in March of this year and an onboard survey. The total data collected were over 12,700 samples. The surveys suggested several opportunities for improvement: increased frequency of service, increased service hours on key routes, reduced travel times, adjusted routes to serve key locations and make stops easier to access and provide riders with more timely and accurate information on arrivals and departures.

A key factor in planning is equity; identifying the demographic profile of transit users, e.g., lower-income households, minority populations, limited English proficient populations, seniors, and students. The onboard survey, origins and destinations, employment centers, shopping, and educational institutions provide input to Geographical Information Systems. The output of this analysis identifies where services are needed. Bus service plans integrate the demographics, travel patterns, and service levels. As gaps in service are identified, route changes are organized into time frames. The level of services is scored with respect to transit gaps and demographic data.

Commission comments centered on the transit gap between employment centers and residential locations; the response was to move away from single purpose routes and transit networks. A new system (Bus Tracker) allows passengers to identify by boarding station when the next bus will arrive.

Public Comment Period

Since there were no members of the public present, there were no comments.

TAC Transportation Achievement Awards

The 2021 TAC Transportation Achievement Award will be presented on November 1, 2022. Nominations for the 2022 TAC Transportation Achievement Award are being sought. There has been no nomination.

Other Business and Announcements

The Chair's report and Commissioners' were noted. Possible topics for the November TAC meeting were considered. The Chair discussed his activity on the street and road renaming committee.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Sitnik made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Commissioner Morse. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.