



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 19, 2021 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 (Dranesville), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Linda Sperling (At-Large), Kelley Westenhoff (Hunter Mill), Alexis Glenn (Lee), Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon), Jeremy Hancock (Providence), Eric Thiel (Springfield), Vice Chair MaryPauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board).

TAC Members Absent: Kevin Morse (Braddock) and M. David Skiles (Sully).

Others in Attendance: FCDOT staff Brent Riddle, and Calvin Lam.

Special Guests/Observers/Public: Member of the public: Zack Gerken, Scout troop 695.

Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chair Champness at 7:37 PM. To fulfill procedural obligations of virtual meetings, Chair Champness and Commissioner Jones performed the opening procedures for a virtual meeting via WebEx. 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 – Plymouth, Michigan
- Linda Sperling (At-Large) - Clifton
- Kelley Westenhoff (Hunter Mill) – Reston
- Alexis Glenn (Lee) – Alexandria
- Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason) – Falls Church
- Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon) – Mount Vernon/Alexandria
- Jeremy Hancock (Providence) – Falls Church
- Eric Thiel (Springfield) – Fairfax Station
- Vice Chair MaryPauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board) - Herndon

Chair Champness 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 Sitnik, and unanimously approved.

Chair Champness 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 WebEx online platform or by calling: 1-415-655-0001 or 1-844-621-3956 Toll Free and entering the Access Code: 129 295 4185. 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 Westenhoff, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chair Champness 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 Sitnik, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

The minutes of the August and September meetings were approved with modest amendments.

Agenda and Discussion Topics:

TAC 2021/22 Work Plan

The Bylaws require the TAC to prepare a work plan. The Plan is expected to be prepared by early 2022, since there will be the first year under the Commission's revised bylaws.

Implementation Strategy

The sentiment is expressed by Commissioners that more direct actions by the TAC are necessary. Value added and measurable impact on County transportation policies as well as projects should be an output objective of the TAC.

The TAC could be involved earlier in the planning process. A specific example was presented of a new Government Center in Lee District where a County consultant considered only automobile traffic patterns. Earlier involvement by the TAC could have led to a more balanced analysis.

TAC members could/should specialize in particular policy areas of special interest. Written briefs can then be brought to the Commission as a whole for consideration. This has already been done with two Commissioners who have explored issues around bicycle and pedestrian safety especially around construction sites.

TAC Achievement Award

The TAC Transportation Achievement Award committee was impaneled, and award nominations will be sought. The Selection Committee is consisted of three Commissioners: Hoskin, Morse and Sperling. A decision on the Award recipient will be made in November. There was discussion regarding specific attributes a successful candidate should have and how to

present a candidate to the Selection Committee. Furthermore, team nominations will be considered.

Public Comment Period

The Commission had a public visitor at the meeting. Zack Gerken, a sixth grader and member of Scout troop 695. The purpose of his visit was partial fulfillment of a badge requirement. He presented two issues to the Commission: the narrow bike lanes along Stringfellow Road made cycling along that thoroughfare dangerous and secondly, parking at his school was sometimes blocking the movement of school buses.

TAC Commissioners coached Zack to contact his district Supervisor's office to relate his concerns.

December TAC events planning

- December 7: Present 2020 TAC Award and Lifetime Achievement Award (if BOS schedule can accommodate)
- December 9: Visit Mosaic District Connected Autonomous Vehicle Project (daytime field trip), followed by potential social event

Other Business and Announcements

- Agenda for November TAC Meeting
- Chair's Report
- Commissioners' Updates

The Commission unanimously approved to move the December meeting to December 14, 2021.

Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 pm. It was seconded by Commissioner Sitnik and unanimously approved by the Commission.