



# 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 – December 14, 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), Vice Chair MaryPauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Linda Sperling (At-Large), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Alexis Glenn (Lee), Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon) and Jeremy Hancock (Providence)

**TAC Members Absent:** M. David Skiles (Sully), Kelley Westenhoff (Hunter Mill), and Eric Thiel (Springfield).

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

**Special Guests/Observers/Public:** N/A

### Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chair Champness at 7:35 pm. Chair Champness then proceeded with the protocol necessary to justify a virtual meeting.

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](https://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 – McLean
- Linda Sperling (At-Large) – Clifton
- Kevin Morse (Braddock) - Burke
- Alexis Glenn (Lee) – Alexandria
- Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason) – Falls Church
- Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon) – Mount Vernon
- Jeremy Hancock (Providence) – Falls Church
- 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: 2331 888 0196. 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 Hoskin, 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 Hoskin, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

The November Meeting Summary was then approved by voice vote.

## **Agenda and Discussion Topics:**

### **Review of TAC 2022 Work Plan**

The TAC reviewed the Template of the 2022 Work Plan. The Template presented identified five focus areas; which are not mutually exclusive. Also, identified were a number of outreach partners. Among these are FCDOT and VDOT but also suggested were a number of organizations that have not been traditionally considered. The TAC intends to reach out to the Supervisors' transportation staff to get their 'buy in' to the plan as well as any changes in emphasis. The TAC still intends to continue the practice of Commissioners to add specific topic areas. In additions to pedestrian safety, residence to work place transportation could be a meeting topic. Some subject areas such as rail-to-Dulles should be reconsidered periodically to evaluate progress.

In addition, Commissioners can identify subject areas in the Plan where they have a special interest or expertise and specialize in that area and bring insights to the TAC as a result of their research.

### **Safe Routes to School**

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is funded by a federal grant distributed by VDOT. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) received \$95,000 in grants each year since 2015. FCPS used operating funds to pay the 20 percent local portion required by VDOT of \$19,000 per year. The grant program ends at the end of the current school year and the program will end unless otherwise funded. The goal of SRTS is to increase the number of students taking part in safe

walking and biking activities at and outside of school. SRTS program helps students be physically active, reduce auto congestion near school “kiss and rides,” aiding air quality near schools and to educate students on pedestrian and bike safety.

Over the last eight years, SRTS has sponsored an increasing number of walk and bike to school days that appear to have been popularly received by parents and students alike. Furthermore, a survey of 21 schools with SRTS programs found an average 6 percent decrease in car ridership and a corresponding increase in walking and biking to school.

The question for the TAC was should the TAC adopt a resolution encouraging the Board of Supervisors and FCPS to continue funding the SRTS program. The resolution was not adopted as Commissioners agreed without a vote to allow the Chair to prepare a letter to the BOS to express the TAC's interest and support of SRTS.

### **TAC 2021 Transportation Achievement Award**

The Scott's Run Trail Project was adopted unanimously as the TAC Achievement award recipient for 2021.

**Public Comment Period: N/A**

### **Other Business and Announcements**

- Agenda for January 2022 TAC Meeting
- Chair's Report
- Commissioners' Updates

Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 pm. It was seconded by Commissioner Sitnik and unanimously approved by the Commission.