



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 April 18, 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), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Jeremy Hancock (Providence), Eric Thiel (Springfield), and

TAC Members Absent: Matt Bechak (Franconia), Phylicia Woods (Hunter Mill), Christie Garton (Fairfax Area Disabilities Services Board – FADSB).

The following TAC positions remain vacant:

- At-Large
- Mount Vernon District
- Sully District

Others in Attendance: FCDOT Staff: Tom Biesiadny (FCDOT Director), Malcolm Watson, and Calvin Lam (Staff Liaison to the TAC).

Special Guests/Observers/Public: Peter Weyland (TAC Commissioner Nominee from Mount Vernon District).

Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chair Champness at 7:40 pm. Chair's comments and presentation of TAC Lifetime Achievement Award to Tom Biesiadny, soon-to-be retiring, Director of FCDOT.

Minutes

The March meeting summary was approved as presented.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (MWCOC) Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Long-Range Plan

The program was a presentation of the TPB Federally required update of the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan. This update cycle includes Zero Based Budgeting for all projects. The two categories of projects are those exempt from Zero Based Budgeting and those that are not exempt from Zero Based Budgeting. Exempt projects are ones already under construction or have identified dedicated funding. Non-exempt projects are those in the Long-Range Plan but not funded, plus any new projects. A new element in this Cycle is the inclusion of climate mitigation goals.

The submission of Fairfax County's projects to the TPB for the Long-Range Plan could be delayed by 6 months by the TPB because of issues with Metro funding in out years and Maryland HOT Lanes project. This delay is beneficial to Fairfax County planning but delays projects already underway.

The County desires to develop a readable spreadsheet presentable to planned public meetings. Based on public comments, the results will be presented for Board approval and then to the TPB for inclusion in the Long-Range Plan, Visualize 2045.

Commissioner questions concerned the relationship between TPB long-range plans and local goals regarding goals like Complete Streets and Alternative measures of effectiveness. The goal of the TPB is to coordinate inter-jurisdictional goals for projects with regional elements. While there could be conflicts, the TPB aims to ameliorate those differences.

All projects in Fairfax County begin with the County Comprehensive Plan, then move to the Priorities Plan. Commissioner questions centered on the process of going from the County's Comprehensive to inclusion in the TPB regional plan. In light of the delay in the TPB planning process, would that delay all projects in all jurisdictions? A solution is an out-of-cycle plan amendment and whether or not that is possible.

Financing is mostly Federal. Of all the projects in the list that have a reasonable likelihood of funding, is there a method of project selection at this time?

TAC 2023 Workplan

The TAC areas of focus are largely unchanged from last year, but there were many turnovers and three vacancies in the Commission. Commissioners could invite groups or speakers from outside who share the same interests/topics to meet with the Commission. Doing more with outside groups could enrich the Commission's perspective.

The Commission is expected to be more future-focused, but identifying the especially important timely issues is still undecided. Within the last couple of years, the Commission has been a reference for specific topics of the Board of Supervisors.

Public Comment Period:

Mr. Weyland introduced himself as the candidate for the TAC position from the Mount Vernon District. He was waiting to be officially confirmed by the Board in May 2023.

Other Business and Announcements**Agenda for May meeting**

The TAC is expected to host two outside groups: Fairfax Families for Safe Streets and Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, and Nicole Wynands, Transportation Planner from FCDOT to give a general overview of the Active Fairfax Transportation Plan.

Adjournment

Chair Champness made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Thiel seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 pm.