



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 May 16, 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), Matt Bechak (Franconia), Phylcia Woods (Hunter Mill), Jeremy Hancock (Providence), Eric Thiel (Springfield), and Christie Garton (Fairfax Area Disabilities Services Board – FADSB).

TAC Members Absent: none. The following TAC positions remain vacant:

- At-Large
- Mount Vernon District
- Sully District

Others in Attendance: Bruce Wright, President, Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling; Chris French, Board Member, and Katie Wilson, Member & Community Organizer, Fairfax Families for Safe Streets; Nicole Wynands, FCDOT; 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 7:38 pm. The Chair had no special remarks.

Minutes

There was a motion to approve the March meeting summary with a change to Commissioner Garton's first name. The motion was approved, and the Minutes were adopted as corrected.

Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB)

The FABB is a community nonprofit that has a Board of 10 with 100 paid members and over 3000 contacts. FABB reviewed its accomplishments in promoting cycling in Fairfax County. Beginning in 2006, FABB got a Bicycle Program and Coordinator. The Bike Plan began as Tyson's Plan and evolved into the County Bicycle Master Plan in 2014.

A major change to the Safe Routes to School program was to permit parents to decide whether students could ride to school; previously, it had been the school principal's decision. In 2017, bicycle parking guidelines were adopted.

Current activities include an update of the bicycle Master Plan and merging the Bicycle Master plan with the Active Fairfax and Safe Streets for All Plan. Completion of the I-66 Parallel Trail and associated bike facilities. The completion of this Trail will facilitate the 30-mile I-66 Loop.

Future activities include support for bike facilities as part of repaving, specifically protected facilities, and revision of the current School Board policy prohibiting biking as an after-school activity. FABB is also having input to the Fairfax County parking Reimagined project and improved maintenance of bikeways.

Commissioner questions centered on the lack of any statistics regarding cycling activity and clarification of the School Board policy prohibiting biking as an after-school activity.

Fairfax Families for Safe Streets

Fairfax Families for Safe Streets (FFSS) was founded in 2020 based on a New York model established in 2014. The mission is to end pedestrian collisions with automobiles. FFSS has developed a crowd-sourced data collection to tabulate collisions and near misses. This data is combined with State data on collisions. FFSS has become an advocacy agent for local communities that have a problem intersection or crosswalk. One FFSS Board member highlighted a FFSS advocacy for a change in the crosswalk design. FFSS then presented their near miss and Dangerous Location Dashboard; comprised of Virginia State data and self-reporting by FFSS data. Commissioner's comments centered on engaging students in data collection.

One comment suggested that the data helped in advocating with VDOT; the answer was no, it hasn't so far. VDOT still has rural move traffic fast. Jurisdictions that have more direct control over streets seem to have quicker success in implementing some of these lower-level fixes.

Active Fairfax

Key project goals of the Active Fairfax are reconciling the Bicycle Master Plan and Countywide Trail Plan. These plans need to be updated to current standards. The County needs to integrate these plans, and guidance from other sources is not entirely adequate for Fairfax County. The Active Fairfax Project is currently in phase II which involves coordination with multiple departments and VDOT. The Team will take through 2024 to complete.

Public Comment Period:

Mr. Weyland brought up the issues of AMTRAK at Lorton Road (vehicles spillover to Lorton Road in the evening).

TAC 2023 Workplan

The Commission is continued to work on the Workplan for 2023.

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

The TAC is considering options for the June meeting. The Election of the 2023 TAC officers process was explained.

Adjournment

Chair Champness made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Morse seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 pm.