



# 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 September 19, 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: Staff

**TAC Members in Attendance:** Chair Mike Champness (Dranesville), Vice Chair Jeremy Hancock (Providence), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Phylicia Woods (Hunter Mill), Peter Weyland (Mount Vernon), Eric Thiel (Springfield), and Christie Garton (Fairfax Area Disabilities Services Board – FADSB).

**TAC Members Absent:** Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Matt Bechak (Franconia), Karen Campblin (Sully District), and Adwoa Rey (At-Large)

**Note:** Commissioner Woods attended the meeting online (her first remote participation for 2023). Commissioner Rey was appointed to the At-Large TAC position but could not attend the meeting.

**Others in Attendance:** FCDOT staff: Noelle Dominguez, Brent Riddle, Sara Allred, 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 7:36 p.m. The Chair had no Special Remarks.

### Remote Participation Motion

Chair Champness determined that a quorum of the TAC was established at the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Woods had notified staff that she could not attend the meeting in person and requested to participate remotely. Her request was in compliance with the TAC's remote participation policy. The Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the request. Commissioner Woods was at her residence, and after some initial technical issues, the Commission could hear her voice clearly via a conference call.

### **Zero-Emission Buses (ZEB) Update**

Amy Mesorbian, Director, Zero-Emission Vehicles, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and Gregory Potts, Virginia Government Relations Officer, Office of Government Relations, WMATA, gave the TAC an update on the program activities and future plan to facilitate zero-emission bus transition.

Zero-Emission Bus transition requires coordinated action: procure buses, design and build infrastructure, procure charging and ancillary equipment, incorporate safety measures throughout design and deployment, plan servicing strategies, training and familiarization of operators and staff, assess funding needs and apply for grants, and coordinate internally and with public and other transit agencies.

Metro's ZEB goals are to have 100% ZEB purchases by 2027 and ZEB fleet by 2042. ZEB initial deployment on W4 route in DC. Two 60-foot buses were delivered, with 10 more expected in 2024. FTA awarded WMATA \$104 million in low or no-emission vehicle grants for FY 2023. The funding will support bus procurements, the conversion of the Cinder Bed Facility, and workforce development and training. WMATA is partnering with Fairfax County for a portion of the site planned for Route 1 BRT service.

### **Approval of the Meeting Summary**

The August meeting summary was approved with some minor edits that Commissioner Weyland will provide.

### **Legislative Priorities Presentation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) Transportation Issues**

Noelle Dominguez, Chief, Coordination and Funding Division, FCDOT, briefed the Commission on the recent legislative priorities to the Board of Supervisors.

Restoration of the full \$102 million of regional funding to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority that was diverted to WMATA. The Commonwealth should ensure sufficient funding for transportation needs, especially new projects, and state road maintenance with continued assistance for local and regional transit. Support legislation to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, including legislation clarifying that counties that do not maintain their own roads may have authority to reduce speed limits to streets within Fairfax County to less than 25 miles per hour (mph) but in no case to less than 15 mph. Support legislation to better regulate loud exhaust systems. Oppose any legislation devolving secondary road construction and maintenance to counties without corresponding revenue enhancements.

### **Discussion of TAC 2023-24 Work Plan Focus Areas**

There were nine areas identified, and a Commissioner was associated with each. For some, a team of two Commissioners was associated. The TAC requested FCDOT to please identify liaison staff to support each TAC Work Plan Focus Area.

**Public Comment Period:** None.

**Other Business and Announcements:** There was a discussion of possible topics for the October, and November meeting and future meetings. Commissioners Garton and Woods suggested the TAC discuss transportation issues for older adults and citizens with disabilities. They agreed to try to organize this discussion for the October TAC meeting.

### **Commissioner's Comments**

The TAC plans to hold a remote meeting in November to accommodate Thanksgiving travel for TAC Commissioners. The TAC can consider moving the December meeting to another date to accommodate Christmas travel for TAC Commissioners.

At the round table, Commissioners offered comments on issues in their district.

### **Adjournment**

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