

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams Software

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Note Taker: Beth Iannetta

Committee Members in Attendance:

Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville), James Albright (Mason), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Elizabeth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Erin Partlan (Lee)

Committee Members Absent:

Karl Liebert (Springfield), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), Michael Depue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), *Vacant* (Providence), *Vacant* (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board)

Others in attendance:

Davis Loss (FCDOT), Nicole Wynands (FCDOT); Brian Richard, resident

Call to Order: This remote meeting used Microsoft Teams video conferencing. Mr. Comer read the recitals required under Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, the uncodified Fairfax County Board of Supervisors emergency ordinance adopted on 14 April 2020, and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3700 to -3714) pertaining to meetings that must be conducted remotely during a declared State of Emergency as being essential to the continuity of government. As required by the legal guidance, Mr. Comer introduced a motion, which was seconded, that this meeting is required for conducting an essential governmental function and must be conducted remotely. He requested that the motion be approved by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved. Mr. Comer next conducted a roll call to determine which members, staff, and other participants were in attendance and that every member, staff, and other participants could hear every other attendee clearly. Following this roll call and determining that a quorum was reached, Mr. Comer moved that the committee confirm that every participant could hear every other participant clearly. The motion was seconded; Mr. Comer called for approval by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: Review and approval of the April, May and June 2022 minutes has been deferred.

Presentation: Draft Bicycle Parking Guidelines

- Nicole Wynands, FCDOT, gave a presentation on the proposed Bicycle Parking Guidelines being considered as part of ActiveFairfax and the Parking Reimagined projects. The current bicycle parking guidelines were drafted in 2014 by Charlie Strunk, the former FCDOT Bicycle Coordinator. The guidelines have aged well but need to be updated. The ActiveFairfax project team has advanced this topic in Phase 2 to coincide with the Parking Reimagined project so that the bike parking rates can be codified in the County's Zoning Code, which they have never been before. A June 2, 2022, version of the draft document was shared on the screen for discussion. The new guidelines will be more of a technical document versus the existing document which was very text-heavy as bicycle parking was a newer concept that required more explanation. The details in the document include the recommended amount of bicycle parking, the design, and type of parking facilities. The goal is to link this document in the County's Public Facility Manual (PFM) that would make it a requirement and not just a recommendation. Further review of the document included details related to short- and long-term parking rates based on various land use types, location and design standards, type of bike parking equipment, required and optional amenities, and new minimum requirements. The bike parking rates are based on the upcoming AASHTO standards. Mr. Albers inquired about bike parking rates for farmers' markets. Ms. Wynands clarified that farmers' markets are established in various locations and are temporary in nature and not a dedicated land use. Bicycle parking should be available at the locations like parks, schools, or other sites. Special event uses wouldn't necessarily have a land use listing in the chart, it could be done on a case-by-case basis. Regardless, there is a minimum requirement of two bicycle parking spaces for any land use type. Mr. Klein asked what would trigger the implementation of these standards and who would review the associated waivers. For the most part it would be implemented through land development applicants. The applicability for by-right developments is still in question but having it in the PFM does help. Including the rates in the zoning code is considered the important step to making them a requirement. Mr. Comer inquired about the recommendation for power outlets for micromobility charging. He was concerned about power outlets located on the floor. It should be noted that an electric vehicle charging station can be used by electric bikes and vice versa. Ms. Partlan inquired about higher security public parking option for electric bikes versus a u-rack. It is not included yet, but it can be included as an option. Ms. Wynands indicated that she would distribute the draft document with the committee members. Comments should be reviewed within the next two weeks. FCDOT staff expects to post it for public comment in August.

Discussion:

- **Safe Routes to School Program Letter Update** – The draft was finalized and is expected to be distributed tomorrow.
- **Route 1 Safety Improvement and Speed Study Letter** – A draft letter on the lagging progress on the Route 1 Speed Study. Mr. Klein discussed the lack of activity on the VDOT study and the critical need for it to move forward based on recent development being

considered throughout the corridor. A public meeting was anticipated in Spring, but that has not materialized. The draft letter recognizes the improvements completed to date regarding the signalized intersections, however the number one action to reduce deaths is to reduce the speed. Ms. Ampeh felt it was more than the speed limit but the enforcement aspect. She referenced the recent incident near Oakton High School. Mr. Albright shared his perspective and similar incidents in the Mason district. He wondered if this effort could be done on a larger scale or would it be done on an individual corridor basis. Mr. Comer asked Mr. Cosgriff to give a summary of the recent Fairfax Families for Safe Streets meeting he attended which included Mr. John Lynch, a senior VDOT official, Rachel Flynn, and Tom Biesiadny. Four corridors were included in the discussion. Mr. Cosgriff noted an overall sense of frustration over the glacial pace that safety studies take to complete. He recommended inviting Mr. Doyle from the organization to a future meeting as they are voicing the same concerns as this committee. Ms. Iannetta inquired about the ability to broaden the ability to install speed cameras in safety corridors through the General Assembly. Mr. Newman inquired about the allowed installation of speed cameras within school and work zones. It was noted that City of Fairfax recently installed them, but it doesn't seem like the program is moving forward in the County. After continued discussion, the consensus was to send the draft letter as written and the committee would consider sending a separate letter to address the lack of enforcement and more specific recommendations.

Motion to Approve: Mr. Newman made a motion to approve the draft letter and authorize the Chairman to allow minor modifications regarding the format as needed. The motion, seconded by Mr. Cosgriff, was approved by acclamation and without objection. Mr. Comer offered to draft the letter regarding enforcement. Mr. Newman recommended we capture the various nuances and share with stakeholders for input.

Citizen comments/Question & Answer Period: (if any)

- Brian Richards, resident, appreciated the speed discussion and enforcement discussion. He mentioned roadway narrowing and other designs to help reduce the speeds without the need of police officers. Mr. Comer mentioned the County offers a wide range of measures like this where appropriate.

Staff Report:

- **I-66 Outside the Beltway Trail Update** – FCDOT did not have an update at this time.
- Davis Loss announced he was leaving FCDOT at the end of the month. This would be his last meeting. TSB committee items should be coordinated through Chris Wells until further notice.

New/Active/Unresolved Issues:

- Mr. Comer recognized several current and former TSB members who have received recognition for volunteerism and contributions to the community in making life better. Wade Smith, James Albright and Jim Klein were recognized by Volunteer Fairfax. Bob Cosgriff

was honored with the Lord Fairfax title. Mr. Comer was appreciative of the committee member time and effort.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.