

**Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 8, 2021 at 7 p.m.**

**Location: Remote Meeting via Cisco Webex Video Conferencing**

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

Note Taker: Mark Tipton

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Wade H.B. Smith (Dranesville), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), James Albright (Mason), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Kathryn (Katie) McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations), Elizabeth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association)

**Committee Members Absent:**

*Vacant* (Providence), *Vacant* (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Dyami Pipkin (Lee), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association)

**Others in attendance:**

Chris Wells (Fairfax County Department of Transportation), Nicole Wynands (Fairfax County Department of Transportation), Philip Latasa (Friends of Accotink Creek), Garry Banks (Friends of Accotink Creek), Avril Garland (Friends of Accotink Creek), Betsy Martin (Audubon Society)

**Call to Order:** This remote meeting used Cisco Webex 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:** The prior Minutes were not available at this time and will be approved at a later meeting.

**Discussion:**

- **Cinder Bed Road Trail (near the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station)** - Philip Latasa showed a PowerPoint advocating placing the pedestrian connections along roads in the area instead of in the environmentally sensitive stream valley. Chris Wells has a meeting with Supervisor Lusk next week. Jeff Fasceki is the FCDOT project coordinator, and the design consultant would be the appropriate person to discuss the process for environmental and project approvals. The alignment will be approved soon. It changed from straight to the metro station to along the road and trail near the railroad tracks. Jim Klein and James Albright said the magnolia bog wetlands (rare bog) is a concern. He pointed out that a large bridge with angled piers will help avoid the bog, and a French drain could allow water to flow through the trail. Ken Comer suggested that alternate routes along nearby roads are an option. Betsy Martin agreed with using road right-of-way instead of converting natural areas to transportation uses.

**Staff Report:**

- **ActiveFairfax Plan (addressing pedestrian and cyclist equity-based needs)** - Nicole Wynands said Phase I is wrapping-up and public comments end on December 10<sup>th</sup>. The plan will be brought to the BOS Transportation Committee on February 1, 2022, and the full Board of Supervisors in early spring. Phase II would begin and the final plan is expected in summer 2023. Shawn Newman said one topic that stood out in public comments were to improve public safety and reduce crime with additional lighting.
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** – Chris Wells explained the recently passed 5-year transportation funding will provide significant increased support to alternative transportation and safety issues.
- **Annandale Greenway-** According to Chris Wells, Supervisor Gross will ask in a Board Matter for certain trails to be added as a branded greenway. Jim Albright has been working on the greenway idea and it is generating interest.
- **West Falls Church Metrorail Station Area** - The community is concerned about gaps in pedestrian access to the metro station. A Comprehensive Plan Amendment is in the works, per Chris Wells.
- **Board of Supervisors Board Matter – October 5, 2021** The BOS voiced concerns about the lack of funding for pedestrian projects. Staff is directed to find \$100 million over 5-years for projects. Staff will prepare a list of potential pedestrian projects and possible criteria options for prioritizing projects.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.