

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Room 232, Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

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

Note Taker: Beth Iannetta

Committee Members in Attendance:

Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/ Vice-Chair), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Erin Partlan (Franconia District), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Elizabeth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Michael DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Tyler Schiefelbein (Springfield District) Diane Monning (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board)

Committee Members Absent:

Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), James Albright (Mason District), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District),

Others in Attendance:

Nicole Wynands (FCDOT); Zach DesJardins (FCDOT); Micah & Emory DiGrezio (Boy Scout Troop), Mr. Evan Weiner, resident

Call to Order & Introduction: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Bob Cosgriff at 7:03pm followed by the introductions of Tyler Schiefelbein, new representative from Springfield District and Diane Monning, for the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board.

Approval of the Minutes: The draft September 2022 minutes were sent out to members and staff for review. A motion to approve the September 2022 minutes with edits as discussed was moved by Ms. Ampeh, seconded by Mr. Albers, and passed.

Presentation: Fairfax County Capital Bikeshare Update (Zack DesJardins, FCDOT) – Mr. DesJardins reviewed background of program and how it works. He noted the county received six grants that could double the size of the current program. Virtual community meetings are planned for each of the Supervisor Districts this Fall/Winter, but no dates have been set yet. He reviewed ridership and revenue trends for pre- and post- pandemic timeframes. He reviewed new station

locations in Mount Vernon, Springfield, Mason, City of Fairfax/GMU, Providence (Tysons, Merrifield & Vienna areas), Hunter Mill and Dranesville districts. The program has started to incorporate electric bikes which make up 6% of the fleet and generate 15% of the trips. The goal is to purchase e-bikes versus classic bike for future fleet investments. Ms. Ampeh noted the lack of stations in Sully and Centreville areas. Mr. DesJardins explained destinations are far apart and no heavy rail system serves that district. Mr. Newman inquired about VRE station and the challenges with those were explained. Mr. Newman noted that this presentation will be given at an upcoming FABB sponsored webinar next week. Mr. Stephens wanted to confirm the program's goal for replacing classic bikes with e-bikes in the future. Mr. Klein inquired about the proposed the Mount Vernon Trail /Belle View stations.

Discussion:

- **Speed limit enforcement letter** (Shawn Newman): A draft letter was distributed for review prior to the meeting. Mr. Newman noted recent developments on the topic since the draft letter was drafted. Fairfax County Police briefed the Board of Supervisors on a possible pilot program launch. Mr. Newman noted this letter would add weight to encourage the pilot launch. Mr. Klein recommended an introductory statement noting the recent police briefing and new pedestrian deaths in recent weeks. Committee members discussed the proposed fine structure. Mr. Stephens recommended including the concern about the recommended fines into the letter. Mr. Newman will revise the draft based on committee discussions with the goal to vote on the final draft at the November TSB meeting.
- **TSB Priorities (follow-up)** (Nicole Wynands/Bob Cosgriff) – Mr. Cosgriff reviewed a proposal to develop a strategic focus to fulfill its chartered purpose. He drafted a white paper for the committee members to review and edit (see attached). Staff will distribute the materials following the meeting. The proposal included how the committee currently operates and the impact from the recent retirement of the FCDOT staff liaison. The larger question was what should “oversight” mean in terms of the Committee’s stated purposed and how it operates. The proposal concluded that with internal changes to FCDOT staff liaison it is the opportune time to develop new protocols for committee/staff interactions and what the committee expects from staff in terms of support. It is also an opportune time to explore ways for the Committee to be more strategic as opposed to “tactical” in how it can influence active transportation goals. Recommendations included to following:
 - The Staff should identify publicly available status reports and databases to replace the time-consuming “data dumps” at meetings, thus reducing Staff workload related to briefing the Committee on a large list of projects at monthly meetings.
 - The Committee should develop a list of strategic active transportation priorities to guide its activities and identify necessary sources of information to assist in its deliberations on these priorities.
 - The Staff should develop a workable method to provide necessary technical advice to the Committee regarding priority items under discussion.
 - The Staff should advise the Committee on how better to influence projects at the inception through more involvement with Comprehensive Plan amendments processes. While it is the function of Staff to deal with the technical aspects of any proposed land use change,

the Committee could be a stakeholder in the Comp Plan amendment process to ensure that all active transportation equities are protected at the policy level.

- The magisterial appointees should coordinate more closely with their respective supervisor's staff aides responsible for land use planning/Comp Plan reviews, transportation, and parks in order to be able to influence policies in order that active transportation equities are included in all plans and projects from the outset, and not, as it typically is now, once they are already approved, funded, and scheduled.

Mr. Klein felt the committee representative haven't had enough leverage to apply pressure in a timely manner. Ms. Partlan inquired about the committee's influence on commercial properties opportunity to inform and advocate for pedestrian and bicycle initiatives. Ms. Ampeh discussed proposed ways to measure the successes and resources available including comments about connectivity versus safety and whether maps be used to identify safety improvements. Mr. Klein noted the ongoing ActiveFairfax Plan Amendment is expected to cover several of the strategies noted. Mr. Stephens noted public interests has never been higher in trail, sidewalk and bike facilities. Mr. Newman inquired about the timeline and how do we best influence the legislative agenda. Ms. Wynands stated that June/July is the best timeframe to coordinate.

Citizen Comment/Question & Answer Period:

- Mr. Evan Weiner raised questions about a W&OD trail issue, inquired if the County would offer rebate on e-bikes like the program in Denver, and issues related to VDOT's use of slip ramps and roundabouts.
- Micah & Emory DiGrezio, Boy Scout Troop reps, complimented the County's trails and sidewalks. They noted the investment in features but no investment in enforcement. They request advocacy to push for enforcement and education.

Staff Report: (Nicole Wynands, FCDOT)

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program – Sally Smallwood has retired, and her grant funded position has been transitioned to funded a position in the Fairfax County Public School's Transportation Division. Hiring for the position is in process. TSB members expressed interest in adding this position to the TSB as an official member.
- Virginia Safety Campaign – "Take a Moment" safety program that focuses on safety education and best practices. A recent event for the initiative included the launch of the \$100 million BOS investment over 6 years with an initial \$5 million in the first year and \$25 million in the second year.
- Northern Virginia Recreational Trails Summit, hosted by NVRC, is scheduled for October 20th from 10- 2:30pm at 3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA. It is a regional meeting to create trail partnerships for healthy and vibrant communities.
- Details for a Hunter Mill Mobility Event was announced.

Member Reports:

- Ms. Iannetta noted the Fairfax County Park Authority is seeking input on their "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Access (PROSA) Strategy. PROSA will provide a roadmap for improved park access and a balance of recreational experiences. Virtual meetings are

scheduled for October 25 and November 1. More information can be found at <https://bit.ly/fcpa-prosa>.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.