

# Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM, December 19, 2017

Location:

This is a Public Meeting / TAC Holiday Dinner (\*) to be held at  
**Duangrat's Thai Restaurant 5878 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041**

Web Site: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings)

Note-Taker: Harry Zimmerman

**TAC Members in Attendance:** Jeff Parnes, Chair (Sully), Jennifer Joy Madden, Vice Chair (Hunter Mill), Roger Hoskin, Secretary (Mason), Linda Sperling (At-Large), Mike Champness (Dranesville), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Michael Shor (Mt. Vernon), Eric Thiel (Springfield), and Harry Zimmerman (Lee).

**TAC Members Absent:** Micah Himmel (Providence)

**Others in Attendance:** Tom Biesiadny, Calvin Lam, and Martha Elena Coello (FCDOT)

## Agenda and Discussion Topics:

Welcome Commissioner Linda Sperling as the New TAC At-Large Member

Congratulations to Ms. Coello on receiving this year's TAC Transportation award.

Acceptance of the November 28, 2017, Regular Meeting Notes

Update on Tolling on I-66 Inside the Beltway Project – Tom Biesiadny (FCDOT)

Director Biesiadny presented the Commissioners with considerable data on usage, tolling, and system performance on I-66 inside the beltway following conversion to Express Lanes as well as summaries of some regional transit improvements being implemented with tolling revenues.

TAC members provided observations and recommendations to FCDOT about potential opportunities to improve public awareness as to how well the system is working even at this early stage.

Chairman Parnes made another appeal for the County to advocate to VDOT for a more user-friendly tolling strategy aimed at out of town drivers or occasional regional users who do not have or may not want to pay monthly fees for transponders. Technologies are being used in other highway tolling systems that read license plates and send bills with additional transaction fee included. Virginia's system can do that but includes a 'fine'. Simple recommendation is to change terminology to remove the negative stigma of that transaction fee being a fine. Secondly, other Commissioners recommended a public outreach advising potential users of this license plate reading alternative thereby encouraging more people to

use the Express Lanes for the cost of the toll plus a modest fee. Overall, this should increase ridership and also potentially increase revenues.

There was also a question as to why the I-66 tolling was being calibrated to maintain 55 mph when other systems in Northern Virginia were set to maintain 45 mph and the hours of tolling were extended compared to what was previously the hours of HOV on this section of I-66. Director Biesiadny provided his understanding of VDOT's underlying rationale which included not wanting the new system to exacerbate the severe congestion on I-66 in the periods just before and just after the prior HOV hours of operation and also wanting the Express lane operations to make a significant improvement in the travel time over this section of the highway over a greater period of time.

The TAC members congratulated Mr Biesiadny and Ms Coello on a great year and thanked Mr Lam for his continued excellent support for the TAC over the years.

Comment & Feedback on Previous Meeting's Presentations:

There was brief discussion of TAC member involvement with their District Supervisors regarding the prior update on the Transportation Project Priorities (TPP) and Outreach Efforts

Next meetings of TAC's subcommittee on Planning for the Future

There was consensus on continuing TAC Strategic Planning deliberations about future TAC emphasis areas and planning activities in working group meetings on January 8<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Goal is to close in a refined agenda and strategy to present to FCDOT and BOS early in 2018.

Other Business:

- Summary of the Board Transportation Committee Meeting on December 12, 2017
- TAC Transportation Achievement Award to Martha Elena Coello, FCDOT) at the Board Meeting on December 5, 2017

Planned Agenda for next meeting:

- **January 16, 2018:** Potomac River Crossings Data Development Study – VDOT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.