

FAIRFAX COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

August 16, 2016, 7:30 PM

FCDOT, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Conf. Rooms 400.06 & 400.08, Fairfax, VA 22033

Web Site: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tac/>

Note-Taker: Roger Hoskin

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

TAC Members Absent: Micah Himmel (Providence), Donald Kissinger (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Eric Thiel (Springfield), and Alan Young (At-Large)

Others in Attendance: FCDOT Staff: Calvin Lam, John King, and Bob Pikora; Marianne Gardner, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ); Tony DeLorenzo, Fairfax County Office of Community Redevelopment (OCR); Trent Berger, DPZ, observing.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeff Parnes at 7:35 pm. The meeting notes of the last meeting could not be approved as a quorum was not present. A motion to approve was tabled.

Agenda and Discussion Topics

Embark Richmond Highway

The topic of this month's meeting is the Embark Richmond Highway project. There were four presenters and each one presented an aspect of the project. The Embark project is a reconfiguration of Richmond Highway (Route 1) in Fairfax County to a more densely developed mixed use and multi-modal transportation community. John King of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) presented an overview. This long term project consists of four phases: Phase one is the development of a median running Bus Rapid Transit line from the Huntington Metro Station to Hybla Valley, expansion of Route 1 to a 3 by 3 highway its full length in Fairfax County, provision for pedestrian walkways and separated bicycle trails is part of the plan. Along the project path are to be 9 BRT stations which will be the center for a densely developed community center. Phase 1 is expected to be completed by 2026. Phase 2 would extend BRT from Hybla Valley to Fort Belvoir, estimated completion would be 2028. Phase 3 would extend BRT to Woodbridge by 2034. Phase 4 would extend the Metrorail Yellow line from Huntington to Hybla Valley by 2040.

The County obtained a \$4 million grant from the State to study and report on the implementation of a BRT system in the County. The current objective of this long range plan is to develop a report, in detail, to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors as a basis for amending the Comprehensive

Plan to accommodate the BRT and associated development. The general time line for this process is to be completed by the end of 2017.

The County has appointed an Advisory Commission which meets monthly with Embark Team members. The Commission includes members from the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts along with representatives from the Southeast Development Corporation and the Planning Commission. At this point, the TAC queried if there could be a substantive role for the TAC in the planning process. While this is not guaranteed, it was presumed that the TAC could provide comment and critique the plan document.

In addition to an advisory commission, there will be a number of Planned Community Meetings for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment. A total of six meetings are planned. Two have already been held in May and July with the next one expected in November.

A visual of the proposed route 1 change was provided. As envisioned, it would include BRT in its own right-of-way in the median, a 3 by 3 highway, separated bicycle paths and pedestrian walk ways with space for greenery along the way. Commissioners' questions centered on the location of the bicycle paths alongside the highway. Questions were raised concerning fare collection methods. The presumption was that fares be collected before passengers reached the platform rather than collect fares in the manner fares are collected on buses today. The visual presented showed overhead power poles and one Commissioner wondered if this was to be the case or would utility lines be underground. Bob Pikora (FCDOT) noted that Federal funds would not be available for utility line replacement and that putting lines underground would be very expensive. Underground lines would improve the project's appearance. The disposition of utility lines has not yet been determined and is not within the scope of the initial report.

Marianne Gardner of the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) presented an outline of likely land use changes that would be advocated as part of the planning document. The exhibits showed a town center multi-use concept around each of the proposed nine BRT stations. The town center concept is similar to that of Reston Town Center albeit somewhat smaller. Commissioners' questions concerned the size and height of proposed buildings. Given the current supply of office space in Fairfax County, would there be demand for additional office space. Ms. Gardner admitted that in surveys some were quite satisfied with the status quo. Another Commissioner pointed out the pitfalls of forcing a particular design concept on an existing community. Given that the Embark project would require a considerable reallocation of already developed land, would the project encounter resistance from current landowners. Ms. Gardner countered that the prospect of greater land use density and potential for higher revenues could provide an incentive to current landowners to participate.

Bob Pikora presented an outline of the transportation analysis currently ongoing. The models used to estimate potential traffic volumes and flow were discussed. TAC Commissioners' inquired as

to the growth assumptions behind the model results. Mr. Pikora responded that a one-to-one-and-half percent growth rate assumption was used and that this was a standard rule-of-thumb number based on past experience. TAC members inquired about whether multi modal level of service analysis/modeling has been used instead of the outdated motorized-vehicle-only level of service. Staff responded that is not their mandate from the County, but they would see what they could do and get back to the Commission with a report. TAC would like to hear from the Embark team within 3 months.

Tony DeLorenzo of the Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) presented a design concept of the town center design and how this could contribute to the renewal of the entire Route 1 corridor. Street design should not only contribute to congestion relief but connectivity of streets, street design should be integrated with building design and open space use to contribute to a sense of community.

Comment & Feedback

Comments centered on the June meeting presentation on trail and sidewalk maintenance. A draft letter to the Board of Supervisors had been prepared applauding recent efforts to give higher priority to sidewalk and trail maintenance and that this should be part of the budget.

Also, it was mentioned that the County has the capability of performing health assessments of the benefits of proposed projects, such as Embark, and health benefits to residents of sidewalk and trail maintenance and that this should be part of the standard calculus in evaluating projects.

Other Business

With a quorum now present, July meeting notes were approved as amended.

Planned Agenda for Next Meeting

- **September 20, 2016:** I-395 Express Lanes – Susan Shaw/Amanda Baxter (VDOT)

Topics for Future Meetings (Candidates for holding meetings at alternate location indicated in bold)

- **October 18, 2016:** Fairfax County Parkway Corridor Study – Neil Freschman
- **November 15, 2016:** Legislative Update – Noelle Dominguez (FCDOT)
- **December 20, 2016:** Update on Fairfax County Taxicab Regulation – Susan Hafeli (DCCS)
- **January 17, 2017:** Update on I-66 Project – Sung Shin and Leonard Wolfenstein (FCDOT)
- **February 21, 2017:** Update on Tysons Transportation Projects – Ray Johnson (FCDOT)
- **March 21, 2017:** Results from the 2017 Legislative Session– Noelle Dominguez (FCDOT)
- **April 18, 2017:** Silver Line Phase II Report – Mark Canale (FCDOT)
- **May 16, 2017:** Potomac River Crossings Data Development Study – VDOT

- **June 20, 2017:** Route 7 in Fairfax County, Plans from the Loudoun County line to Falls Church – FCDOT/VDOT
- Comprehensive Plan and Transportation staff and Planning Commission discussions with TAC on what their vision is for future development and any changes in planning and zoning guidelines that may be needed to account for future work environment given the pace and impacts of technology advances (including guest speaker to explain impact of self-driving/smart cars, buses and trucks on traffic, roadways and intersections). Joint meeting date with the Planning Commission's Transportation Committee will be determined.

Closing and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Upcoming Events/Other Meetings

Board Transportation Committee Meeting (BTC)

- October 4, 2016, 1-3 pm, Fairfax Government Center, Conf. Rooms 9 & 10

Provide Input on Proposed FY 2018 Transportation Alternatives Projects

- September 15, 2016, 7 pm, Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033

Upcoming TAC Meetings:

September 6, 2016	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
September 20, 2016	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
October 4, 2016	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
October 18, 2016	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
November 1, 2016	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
November 15, 2016	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
December 6, 2016	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
December 20, 2016	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
January 3, 2017	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
January 17, 2017	7:30 pm	TAC Regular Meeting (FCDOT)
February 7, 2017	7:30 pm	TAC Work Session (FCDOT)
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