



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

## Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: January 20, 2026 – Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Online

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings>

Note-Taker: Keith Foxx

**TAC Members in Attendance (Virtual):** Chair Mike Champness (Dranesville), Vice Chair Christie Garton (Fairfax Area Disabilities Service Board), Adwoa Rey (At-Large), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Roger Hoskin (Mason), Peter Weyland (Mount Vernon), Eric Thiel (Springfield), Shiva Pant (Hunter Mill), Sonya Breehey (Providence), Secretary Keith Foxx (Franconia).

**TAC Members Absent:** Karen Campblin (Sully).

**Others in Attendance:** Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT): Nicole Wynands, Transportation Planner IV; Laura Ghosh, Chief, Active Transportation Section; Calvin Lam, TAC Staff Liaison; Sara Allred; Michael Robb (member of the public).

**Special Guests / Observers:** Nitya Harikumar.

### Meeting Summary

The Commission conducted a virtual meeting in compliance with Fairfax County electronic meeting requirements. The primary agenda items included approval of prior meeting minutes, a detailed briefing on the *Active Transportation and Trails Plan* and its pending *Comprehensive Plan Amendment*, and a presentation on the *Active Transportation Safety and Access Project Prioritization Effort*, including the allocation of the Board of Supervisors' \$100 million commitment. The Commission also discussed planning for the upcoming *TAC Technology & Innovation Forum* and addressed administrative and procedural matters.

### 1. Open the Meeting

Chair Champness called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. and conducted the required electronic meeting procedures. A roll call was taken, with all participating Commissioners stating their location. Connectivity was confirmed, and a quorum was established.

A motion was made and unanimously approved certifying that all members could adequately hear one another, satisfying electronic meeting requirements.

### 2. Chair's Remarks; Welcome Public

The Chair welcomed members of the public and FCDOT staff, including returning observer Ms. Harikumar. Special appreciation was expressed to Ms. Nicole Wynands, who was attending her

final TAC meeting prior to departing FCDOT, in recognition of her long-standing support and contributions to the Commission.

### **3. Commissioners' Opening Remarks**

Commissioners briefly acknowledged recent transportation-related topics, including observations related to adverse automated vehicle behavior during recent power outages, noting their relevance to future TAC discussions on technology and innovation. No formal opening statements were otherwise offered.

### **4. Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The Chair explained that the December 2025 Meeting Minutes had been distributed late and were not yet available to all Commissioners. As a result, approval of the December 2025 minutes was deferred to a future meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Morse and seconded by Commissioner Hoskin to approve the November 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote.

**Action Item:** December 2025 Meeting Minutes to be resent to Commissioners and scheduled for approval at a future meeting.

### **5. Active Transportation and Trails Plan Effort**

#### **Presentation Overview**

Nicole Wynands, Transportation Planner IV, FCDOT, provided a comprehensive update on the Active Transportation and Trails Plan, including its history, public engagement, technical development, and anticipated adoption timeline. Laura Ghosh, Chief of the Active Transportation Section, joined the presentation.

Ms. Wynands summarized the plan's objectives, including:

- Consolidation of the Bicycle Master Plan and Countywide Trails Plan;
- Filling network gaps and realigning routes to avoid environmental conflicts;
- Updating facility guidance consistent with "all ages and abilities" best practices.

She reviewed the project timeline, noting authorization in 2019, phased development beginning in 2020, and Board authorization in May 2025 to proceed with a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, with adoption anticipated in Spring 2026.

#### **Public Engagement**

Ms. Wynands described multiple rounds of community engagement conducted between 2021 and 2025, including surveys, open houses, pop-up events, and virtual meetings. Engagement reached thousands of residents through social media and generated over 500 data points

informing network refinement, facility selection, and policy guidance. Key themes included demand for separated facilities, pedestrian safety, and improved network connectivity.

### **Network Map and Facility Guidance**

The presentation explained the structure of the proposed countywide active transportation network, including:

- Regional routes connecting activity centers and neighboring jurisdictions;
- Local routes linking neighborhoods, schools, parks, and transit;
- Distinctions among on-road facilities, shared-use paths, open-space trails, and neighborhood connectors.

Ms. Wynands emphasized that the map is visionary and does not distinguish between existing and planned facilities, preserving flexibility for future implementation. She also discussed revisions to facility guidance tables to improve clarity and align with best practices.

### **Environmental Considerations**

Significant discussion focused on environmental impacts and trade-offs, particularly for trails in open space and stream valleys. Ms. Wynands explained that the plan allows flexibility in facility type, including natural-surface trails where appropriate, and that feasibility, environmental review, and community engagement will occur at project-level implementation. Coordination with environmental agencies has already resulted in the removal or modification of routes in highly sensitive areas.

### **Commissioner Discussion**

Commissioner Hoskin asked how a relatively small number of survey participants generated several hundred comments.

Ms. Wynands explained that each response to individual survey questions is counted as a separate data point, supplemented by feedback from in-person meetings and outreach events.

Commissioner Hoskin questioned how the plan distinguishes between facilities that already exist and those that are planned. Ms. Wynands clarified that the map is intentionally visionary and does not differentiate existing from planned facilities, preserving long-term flexibility while existing conditions are evaluated during implementation.

Commissioner Morse raised concerns about pedestrian safety at highway ramps and other high-traffic locations.

Ms. Wynands acknowledged these hazards, noted past coordination challenges with VDOT, and explained that grade separation or signalization is preferred where feasible, guided by the Active Transportation Toolkit.

Commissioner Breehey asked how environmental impacts are assessed and managed when trails traverse sensitive areas. Ms. Wynands explained that the plan emphasizes flexibility, requires

feasibility and environmental review at the project level, and avoids prescriptive facility types in open space to balance access and environmental protection.

Commissioner Breehey also inquired which agencies are responsible for trails in open space not owned by the Park Authority. Ms. Wynands noted that responsibility varies by location and may involve FCDOT, Park Authority, NOVA Parks, NPS, utilities, or community partners, depending on ownership and context.

Commissioners expressed strong support for the plan's multimodal, equity-focused, and forward-looking approach and thanked Ms. Wynands for her leadership.

## **6. Active Transportation Safety and Access Project Prioritization**

Laura Ghosh presented the Active Transportation Safety and Access Project Prioritization Effort, commonly referred to as the \$100 Million for Active Transportation initiative.

She reported that:

- Approximately \$56.7 million has been allocated to date;
- 77 new FCDOT projects are underway in various stages, with additional funding dedicated to maintenance, grants, and contingency needs;
- Remaining funds include \$25.43 million currently being prioritized and \$17.88 million to complete the Board's commitment.

Ms. Ghosh described the four-step prioritization process:

1. Needs and demand analysis using demographic and spatial data;
2. Input from Supervisors on district priorities;
3. Development of a refined project short list using defined criteria;
4. Public engagement, cost screening, and feasibility review prior to Board consideration.

Criteria included proximity to pedestrian destinations, local and regional connectivity, equity considerations, and project length constraints.

**Chair Champness** asked why the \$25.43 million and the remaining \$17.88 million allocations were being addressed in phases rather than combined from the outset. **Ms. Ghosh** explained that the same four-step prioritization framework is being applied to both funding tranches, with the current analysis and public input for the \$25.43 million also informing allocation of the remaining \$17.88 million to ensure consistency and efficiency in project selection.

## **7. Planning for the TAC Technology & Innovation Forum**

The Commission briefly discussed planning for the upcoming TAC Technology & Innovation Forum, including potential focus areas and the need for a dedicated planning session. Further discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

**Action Item:** *Schedule a TAC planning session focused on the Technology & Innovation Forum.*

## 8. Other Business and Announcements

- **Public Comments:** Michael Robb, a Springfield resident and retired design professional, recommended that the TAC review a multimodal case study for Braddock Road that he prepared. He offered the case study as a practical example of multimodal planning and design that could inform the Commission’s ongoing discussions on active transportation and corridor improvements. Mr. Robb requested to share the document with FCDOT staff for distribution to the Commission for consideration. This recommendation was acknowledged by the Chair, and Mr. Robb was directed to provide the case study to Calvin Lam for follow-up and circulation.
- **TAC Achievement Award Selection Committee:** The Chair noted that a selection committee will be established at a future meeting. Commissioners Campblin and Breehey expressed interest in serving.
- **FCDOT Update:** Mr. Lam informed the Commission that the December 2025 TAC Meeting Minutes had been sent earlier in the day, acknowledged that some Commissioners had not received them, and committed to resending the December minutes to ensure all members had access prior to future approval. He also mentioned that Fairfax County will be awarded a \$4.56 million grant to improve roadway safety.
- **Chair’s Report and Commissioners’ Updates:** Commissioner Foxx proposed inviting Chris Harrington, Director of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) – or his designee—to provide a presentation to the TAC on the County’s new community engagement framework.  
**Action:** *FCDOT staff to follow up and try to arrange.*

Commissioner Weyland shared that he developed and uses an AI-enabled, clickable map to track and visualize updates on I-66 and other transportation projects within the Mount Vernon District, describing it as a tool to monitor project status and improve information accessibility. Site: [Mtverson.net](http://Mtverson.net)

## 9. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Garton and seconded by Commissioner Breehey. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:37 p.m.