



County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee (TSB)

June 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Room 7, Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Pkwy

Fairfax, VA 22035draft

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

Howard Albers, Secretary

Members Present: Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/Vice-Chair), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling FABB), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), and Erin Partlan (Franconia District). Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), James Albright (Mason District), Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builders Industry Association), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), and Noel Popwell (Springfield) and Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District).

Member Voting via Proxy: Bob Cosgriff will be voting via Proxy for Ken Comer (At Large/Chair).

Members Absent: Jim Corcoran (Fairfax County Park Authority), Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority).

Others in Attendance: Ryan Paul Johnson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT).

Call to Order: Bob Cosgriff (Vice Chair of the Committee) called the meeting to order at 7:06p.m. A quorum was present at the meeting.

The Board of Supervisors recently appointed Noel Popwell to represent the Springfield District on the TSB Committee. Noel works at the Transportation Research Board at the National Academies of Science and enjoys walking on Fairfax County Trails. Noel is interested in making sure county residents are getting the trails they are paying for.

Policy on TSB All Virtual Meetings The Virginia Freedom of Information Act requires the TSB committee to annually review and readopt the requirements for holding virtual public meetings. A motion was made and seconded to approve the previously distributed policy on TSB all virtual public meetings. The motion was approved.

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Policy Regarding Remote Participation in TSP meeting. The Virginia Freedom of Information Act requires the TSB committee to annually review and readopt the requirements for remote participation in TSP meetings. A motion was made and seconded to approve the previously distributed policy on TSB all virtual public meetings. The motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes: The previously distributed TSB minutes from the March, April, and May 2024 meetings were discussed. Two typographical errors were noted in the March minutes that will be corrected before they are published on the committee website. Three separate motions were made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motions were approved.

Presentation: Ryan Paul Johnson presented information on his work related to a proposed 70-mile NOVA Loop Trail in Fairfax and Arlington Counties, the Town of Vienna, and the Cities of Falls Church and Alexandria. In May 2023 at the completion of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Trail Supervisor McKay talked about having a trail network connecting various NOVA jurisdictions that could promote bicycle tourism and economic development in the region. Ryan Paul said having an official designation and logo for the NOVA Loop Trail will help receive future grant and other financing.

The NOVA Loop Trail will include the Four Mill Run Trail, Mount Vernon Trail, Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Route 1 Trail, Lorton Road, Route 123 (Ox Road) Trail, the Fairfax County Parkway Trail and the Washington & Old Dominion Trail. During the summer of 2023, Ryan Paul and an intern photographed and documented the trail surfaces, crossings, way finding signs, trail amenities, and traffic signals on the proposed loop. Ryan Paul noted that the quality of trail maintenance and way finding signage differed greatly among the various jurisdictions. His work was done with existing FCDOT resources.

Ryan Paul mentioned that Bruce Wright from the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling was helpful in providing information for the proposed loop. Shawn Newman said that if FCDOT needed help with the loop, FABB has members located throughout NOVA that would be available to provide assistance.

Moving forward, Ryan Paul hopes to be able to document all non-FCPA trails in the county and identify locations where improvements are needed to ensure trail equity throughout the county.

Staff Report: Ryan Paul reported that public outreach for the Active Transportation Plan will begin in August. The meeting dates have not yet been approved for release to the public.

Future presentations to the TSB committee:

- July 10 - New Crosswalk Improvement Guidance Hannah Cacner, FCDOT
- August – No meeting
- September 11 VDOT NOVA Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Brian Leckie

Public Comments: None

Discussions:

No information was available about having the FCPA Executive Director brief the committee about the park trail maintenance, planning and programming. The November meeting may be a good time for this presentation.

Karen Ampeh discussed a meeting she attended with Supervisor Smith about a proposed 4 ½ mile Sully Loop Trail. Supervisor Smith has long supported the trail that would connect to trails in Prince William County. MORE (Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts), a recognized trail building organization, volunteered to build the trail on park land once the park authority marked the trail route. Supervisor Smith hoped the trail could be marked by August 2024.

The committee discussed TSB priorities for advocacy in the coming year. Members expressed their disappointment in FCDOT for not including them in the ongoing development of the Active Transportation Plan and Network. FCPA and VDOT trail maintenance, speed limits, trail and sidewalk waivers, involvement with land use committees, holding oversight hearings, and pedestrian safety issues were mentioned as areas of interest. Additional information about setting top priorities will be sent to committee members for further discussion at the July meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the TSB Committee on _____