



County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

October 18, 2024

Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 530
Fairfax, VA 22035

Kenneth Comer,
Chairman
(at large)

Robert Cosgriff
(Braddock)

Lydia Lawrence
(Dranesville)

Erin Partlan
(Franconia)

Alex Rough
(Hunter Mill)

James Albright
(Mason)

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(Mount Vernon)

Brooks Stephens
(Providence)

Noel Popwell
(Springfield)

Karen Ampeh
(Sully)

Katie McDaniel
(Clifton Horse Society)

Shawn Newman
(Fairfax Alliance for
Better Bicycling)
(vacant)
(Fairfax Area Disability
Services Board)

Mark Tipton
(Fairfax County
Federation
of Citizens Associations)

James Corcoran
(Fairfax County
Park Authority)

Maria Lashinger
(Northern Virginia
Builders
Industry Association)

Howard Albers
(Washington Area
Bicyclists Association)

Dear Chairman McKay:

The TSB Committee asks the Board of Supervisors to direct the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) to consolidate their respective trail plans as a condition of approval of the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan (the "Plan"). After four years and hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars expended to consolidate and update the County's legacy trail and bicycle master plans into a single guiding document, we are concerned that the recently posted public draft of the Plan fails to include FCPA's future trail plans. In many cases even existing trails are not included.

While FCPA and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) have been coordinating their efforts to some degree, FCDOT made a conscious decision not to include FCPA's trails in its draft network map that will serve as the basis for the policy language and Comprehensive Plan amendment that will emerge from the Plan. We believe this internal coordination is inadequate for creating a *comprehensive* document. Further, it defeats the purpose of consolidating various trail plans into a single guiding document.

Failure to incorporate FCPA's more than 334 miles of existing trails into the Plan means that the public, when it evaluates and comments on the Plan, is only assessing a portion of the existing and future trail network. Further, it creates an artificial and unnecessary barrier in the County's ability to plan and maintain an integrated network of trails throughout the county.

FCDOT and FCPA intend to manage their plans separately. Maintaining FCDOT's primarily transportation-related pedestrian and bicycle facility planning and the recreation-oriented FCPA trail planning in two separate plans also will perpetuate implementation challenges in the land use and transportation planning processes that the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan was intended to correct.

Accordingly, so that the entire county-wide network of existing and planned trails can be visualized in one place and thus planned, financed, and managed as one comprehensive network, it is appropriate that the Board of Supervisors correct the situation

Sincerely,

Kenneth Comer
Chairman

cc: Board of Supervisors
Bryan Hill, County Executive

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