



# 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)**

**March 13, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**

**Room 8, Fairfax County Government Center**

**12000 Government Center Pkwy**

**Fairfax, VA 22035**

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

Howard Albers, Secretary

### **Members Present:**

Ken Comer (At Large/Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/Vice-Chair), Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling - FABB), Jim Corcoran (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association) Erin Partlan (Franconia District), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), and James Albright (Mason District). and Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builders Industry Association), and Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District).

### **Members Absent:**

Tyler Schiefelbein (Springfield), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), and Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority).

**Others in Attendance:** Nicole Wynands (FCDOT) Susan Kuiler (a citizen), Judy Fraser (Fairfax City resident), Maryanna Fournier (Fairfax City resident), Katy Johnson (Fairfax City resident), Catherine Read, Mayor City of Fairfax, Chloe Ritter, City of Fairfax Multimodal Transportation Planner, and Stacey Sommerfield, City of Fairfax, Director of Parks and Recreation.

**Call to Order:** Ken Comer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 10 and February 14, 2024 TSB committee meetings. Corrections were needed to substitute the "House of Delegates" for "General Assembly" in both the January and February minutes. In the February minutes, a change was needed to substitute "evaluating and addressing the safety and environmental concerns of fair weather trail crossings" for "eliminating fair weather trail crossings". The minutes were approved as corrected.

**Presentation:** Ken Comer commented that Bob Cosgriff met Chatherine Read, the Mayor of the City of Fairfax, at a recent recreational trail summit hosted by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Since well-planned trails connections between the city and county are key to a successful trail network, the Mayor and city staff were asked to present to the committee.

---

Fairfax County Department of Transportation

4050 Legato Road, Suite 400

Fairfax, VA 22033-2895

Phone: (703) 877-5600 TTY: 711

Fax: (703) 877-5723



Mayor Read, Stacey Sommerfield, City of Fairfax, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Chloe Ritter, City of Fairfax Multimodal Transportation Planner, shared extensive information about the City's trail network. The City has 6.2 square miles, 24,000 residents, 13 miles of off street trails, 10 bike rental stations, and a transit system with bike racks. The officials discussed the opportunities and challenges of being surrounded by Fairfax County, a growing George Mason University with 6,000 students on campus, connecting to I-66 intersections and trail, managing their own roads, having 10 bike share stations, and owning a transit system.

Representatives from the City, County, and George Mason University have regular meetings to discuss transportation and other matters of mutual interest. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission also plays a role in coordinating government services and planning for the region.

Chloe Ritter presented information about the City's plans for a Judicial Drive road diet, Pickett Road Connector Trail, George Snyder Trail (GST), Blenheim Boulevard Trail, an Eaton Place crossing, the Government Center Parkway extension, and other projects.

During the presentation questions were asked about the location of the GST and the impact on the environment. The Mayor responded that the City arborist and others are minimizing the impact of the trail on the trees and the environment. The GST has been in the plans for many years and will provide much needed access to open space in the City.

A question was asked about rerouting the Cross County Trail from the sidewalk of Blake Lane to another route through the City of Fairfax. A change was suggested 7 or 8 years ago. Representatives from City, the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation had no information about re-routing of the CCT from Blake Lane.

The presentation ended with the hope that future discussions with the committee will occur so trail connections between the city and county can be built.

**Public Comments:** A resident from the City of Fairfax asked the committee to support a Route 50 trail connection between the newly built trail on Route 50 in Fairfax County with the planned trail connections in the City of Fairfax. Another resident talked about the impacts that the George Snyder Trail will have on the tree canopy and the environment.

**Discussions:** Lydia Lawrence led a discussion of a draft letter to the Board of Supervisors concerning the support for the increased funding for park trails in the FY 2025 county budget, the need for better park trail signage and the removal of unsafe fair weather crossings in county parks. The committee decided to delete from the draft letter any mention of the need for better trail signage and the removal of unsafe fair weather crossing. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the committee chair to edit and sign the letter. The motion was approved with 12 yes, 0 no, and Jim Corcoran abstaining.

**Staff Report:**

Nicole Wynands mentioned there will be an online public meeting on March 16, 2024 to discuss the revised bicycle parking guidelines.

Nicole Wynands said that the public comments period for the Route 29 Study -- between Buckleys Gate Drive/Summit Drive near the Fairfax County Parkway (VA 286) and Jermantown Road -- study closes on March 29, 2024.

Jim Klein asked about the status of the proposed Cinder Bed Trail. Nicole Wynands said that part of the trail is being impacted by the addition of a third rail track between Franconia to Lorton. No additional details were available.

Howard Albers asked if a reply was received from Ms. Torsha Bhattacharya, the program manager for the VDOT State Trails Office, to the committee questions contained in the February 14, 2024, minutes. Nicole Wynands said she has not received a reply but agreed to follow up with Ms. Bhattacharya.

Heidi Mitter, the NOVA District VDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian and Park and Ride Lot Coordinator is the speaker for the April committee meeting. Nicole Wynands is the scheduled speaker for the May meeting and will talk about the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the TSB Committee on June 12, 2024.