



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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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)

November 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), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Jim Corcoran (Fairfax County Park Authority), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), Erin Partlan (Franconia District), Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builders Industry Association), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association)

**Member Proxies:** None

**Members Absent:** Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling FABB), Noel Popwell (Springfield), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District), (Vacant), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board, and Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), and James Albright (Mason District),

**Others in Attendance:** Andrew Sheldon, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT).

**Call to Order:** Ken Comer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. At 7 pm a quorum was not present.

**Approval of Minutes:** In the October minutes, four spelling errors were noted. The representative for the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board was changed from Diane Monning to 'Vacant.' The October minutes will be considered at the December committee meeting.

**Presentation:** None

**Public Comments:** None

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**Staff Report:** Andrew Sheldon from FCDOT gave an update on the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan, FCDOT hiring status, Gallows Road Corridor planning, and the NOVA Loop Trail project. Currently, FCDOT is finalizing memoranda of understanding with neighboring jurisdictions and plans to present the NOVA Loop project to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in December or early in 2025, with rollout in late spring next year.

**Discussions:** Bob Cosgriff led a discussion of the strategic planning concept to guide future committee activities. The committee agreed, in concept, that our job is “persistent and timely advocacy” that will lead to the creation of a seamless, safe, equitable, accessible regional active transportation system in which Fairfax County’s central location plays an essential role.

Our methodology is to leverage “allies” (organizations that share our purpose) to influence the BOS. The key is timely action. This requires the committee to be aware of ongoing land-use and active transportation planning projects and to have a clear understanding of the timelines in each area. This allows the committee to influence projects from the outset rather than reacting after decisions have been made, when it is too late.

The committee identified six priority areas of strategic focus. Various committee members volunteered to take ownership of specific priorities based on their interests and skill sets. The priorities are:

- Trail and Sidewalk Maintenance
- Bike/Ped Safety
- Strategic Trail Planning and Prioritization
- Increased Participation in the Land-Use Planning process
- Better coordination at the district supervisor level
- Better coordination with allies

Sub-committees of not more than two members will do initial research into the issues, develop their *modus operandi*, and give an initial report on their respective areas in January 2025. The strategic planning document is intended to be a roadmap guiding committee activity and will be refined as the committee tackles issues in 2025.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.