



# 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)

January 8, 2025, 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), Jim Corcoran (Fairfax County Park Authority), Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builders Industry Association), and Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling FABB).

**Member Proxies:** Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Erin Partlan (Franconia District), and Brooks Stephens (Providence District).

**Members Absent:** Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), 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), James Albright (Mason District), and Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association).

**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. Using the proxies, a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 11, 2024, TSB Committee were approved as distributed.

**Presentation:** None

**Public Comments:** There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

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**Discussions:** Ken Comer asked for status reports from the focus area sub-committees identified at the November 2024 TSB Committee meeting.

- **Trail and Sidewalk Maintenance** No Report
- **Bike/Ped Safety** No Report
- **Strategic Trail Planning and Prioritization** Howard Albers reported that the VDOT, FCDDOT, the park authority or other entities have many miles of trails planned, yet only a few miles are built each year. The sub-committee plans to track the number of trail miles planned, under construction, and opened each year.
- **Land-Use Planning Process** Maria Lashinger and Brooks Stephens are identifying the steps in the land-use planning process that can influence improvements to trails, sidewalks, and bikeways. The best practice is to make recommendations for improvements as early as possible during the planning cycle. The county's automated system known as Planning and Land Use System (PLUS) is available to the public, but it is hard to use. District land use committees are key components in the process and planning commissioners rely heavily on their recommendations. The sub-committee is continuing to look at the process and does not intend to duplicate the work of others.
- **Better coordination at the district supervisor level** No Report
- **Better coordination with allies** Shawn Newman reported that he and Erin Parlan spoke briefly about ways of working together with other allies to improve trails, sidewalks and bikeways. James Corcoran mentioned that another ally to work with is the Capital Trails Coalition.

Bob Cosgriff mentioned that defining the problem areas for each focus group will be helpful in making meaningful improvements and contributions. The February 2025 meeting will be devoted to learning more about the work of the sub-committees.

Shawn Newman reported that he and the Virginia Bicycle Federation are tracking the following bills through the Virginia legislature which will:

- expand the use of photo speed enforcement
- authorize retired police officers to review photo citations
- expand the definition on school zones
- impose a parking facility tax to funds for the Bicycle Safety Program and
- authorize a study to determine how VDOT allocates maintenance funds. [SJ RES 260](#)

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Shawn Newman mentioned that Joy Faunce, the President of FABB would be taking his place on the TSB Committee during the time he is on active duty with the U. S. Navy beginning in April or May 2025.

James Corcoran asked the committee members for trail suggestions for the 2026 Fairfax County Park Bond referendum. The park authority is considering future projects and suggestions should be submitted to him by the end of the month. Andrew Sheldon agreed to send an e-mail so all committee members get the request.

**Staff Report:** Andrew Sheldon from FCDOT reported that the county is considering starting the Love to Ride Program in the spring of 2025. The application has features to rate trail facilities and identify trail gaps.

The Active Transportation Plan is ready to be presented at the February 2025 Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee meeting. The meeting agenda and date are yet to be determined.

During the December 11, 2025, committee meeting Sandy Klanfer from FCDOT agreed to provide the committee district representatives and the supervisors/staff aides district-by-district maps of the signed bicycle routes in the county. In answer to a question, “When the signed bike route maps would be provided?” Andrew said there was some uncertainty about what was being requested and he would follow-up with Sandy.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the TSB Committee on March 12, 2025 .