



# 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)

March 12, 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), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), Noel Popwell (Springfield), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling FABB), Brookes Stephens (Providence District), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Erin Partlan (Franconia), and Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association).

**Members Absent:** 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), Nathan Curtis, member of the public, and Judy Cosgriff, member of the public.

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

**Election of Committee Officers for 2025:** Article IV of the committee bylaws requires the election of a chairperson each year. Ken Comer was the only committee member volunteering to serve as the committee Chairperson. Since only Bob Cosgriff and Howard Albers volunteered to be the Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively, Ken Comer appointed them to serve for another year.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of January 8, 2025, were approved as distributed. The February 12, 2025, meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**Presentation:** PFC Brandi Horita from the Fairfax County Police Department, Traffic Safety Branch of the Traffic Division gave a presentation on pedestrian and bicycle safety. Officer Horita talked about contributing factors to pedestrian and bicycle crashes. Throughout the year the Police Department conducts numerous enforcement campaigns related to speed, impaired or distracted driving, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and other focus areas.

Patrol officers are asked to educate adults about the requirements for children under age 14 to wear bicycle helmets. Helmets can prevent serious injuries and must be worn.

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While there are many local, state and Federal laws to limit behavior, having all police officers familiar with all laws is a challenge. The police department continually offers training to its officers since there are always new laws to enforce.

In addition to writing traffic tickets, a big part of the police officer's job is educating the public about traffic safety and encouraging changes in behavior. At traffic stops, officers ask drivers if they know why they were stopped. The time is used to educate the driver about the safety concern. Depending on the circumstances, officers use their discretion on writing traffic tickets.

**Public Comments:** None

**Discussions:** The reports by the strategic priorities working groups were deferred until the April committee meeting. Bob Cosgriff asked each working group to send him their project definition statement by March 20.

Lydia Lawrence commented about the limited FY 2026 budget for the county park trails. Howard Albers expressed his concern that no funds were provided for the Safe Streets for All Program. Rather than asking the BOS to include additional funding amounts in the FY 2026 county budget, Ken Comer agreed to draft a letter by the next meeting expressing the committee's concerns about bicyclist and pedestrian safety on trails, sidewalks and bikeways.

**Staff Report:** Andrew Sheldon from FCDOT reported that the Active Transportation update was presented to the Transportation Committee of the Board of Supervisors on February 25, 2025.

The NOVA Trail Loop memorandum of understanding is being finalized. A meeting with all jurisdictions involving the NOVA Trail is scheduled for the last week of March.

The FCDOT will host a Walk and Win Challenge during the month of April 2025.

Andrew Sheldon agreed to follow up with Sandy Klanfer from FCDOT to get district-by-district maps showing the signed bicycle trails in the county. This information was previously requested at the December 11, 2024, TSB committee meeting.

The FCDOT turn calming study identified about 10 intersection locations in each District of the county. A meeting will soon be held with FCDOT and VDOT about what features will be approved and installed.

Brookes Stephens asked for a status update on the unfinished 66 Parallel Trail through Randon Hills Park. Andrew Sheldon agreed to provide the requested information at the April 2025 TSB Committee meeting.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the TSB Committee on April 9, 2025.