



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)

April 9, 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), Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builders Industry Association), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling FABB) and Jim Klein (Mount Vernon).

Proxies: Brookes Stephens (Providence District) Erin Partlan (Franconia) sent to Bob Cosgriff.

Members Absent: Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District), Jim Corcoran (Fairfax County Park Authority), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), Noel Popwell (Springfield), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), and Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association).

Seats Vacant: (Vacant), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board, (Vacant) (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), and Vacant (Mason District).

Others in Attendance: Andrew Sheldon, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT), Catherine Read, Mayor City of Fairfax, Chloe Ritter, City of Fairfax Multimodal Transportation Planner, and Judy Cosgriff, member of the public.

Call to Order: Ken Comer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

Presentation: Ken Comer welcomed Mayor Read, and Chloe Ritter from the City of Fairfax. Ms. Ritter stated that the City of Fairfax has 13 miles of paved bike trails, 3 miles of on street bike trails and 3 miles of sidewalk trails. Currently, the City has 10 Bike Share Stations.

The mayor commented that at a City Council work session in March 2025, the Council decided to reconsider the planned George Snyder Trail. Another work session will be held on April 22, 2025, to further discuss the planned trails in the city. The mayor is concerned that if the city cancels the construction of the George Snyder Trail, the City's reputation may be impacted and the city would no longer receive State and Federal transportation awards.

Fairfax County Department of Transportation

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Fairfax, VA 22033-2895

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Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the March 12, 2025, meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None

Discussions: Ken Comer distributed a draft letter about the County's FY 2026 Budget. After discussing a few changes, the Committee voted to approve sending the letter to the Board of Supervisors. A copy of the final letter is attached.

Ken Comer and Bob Cosgriff will be attending a May 8, 2025, meeting of the Planning Commission and Transportation Advisory Commission on the transportation text of the County's policy plan.

Staff Report: Andrew Sheldon (FCDOT) reported that the NOVA Loop Trail was approved in March 2025. A draft Memorandum of Understanding is being reviewed by the impacted jurisdictions.

The FCDOT is hosting a Walk and Win Challenge during April 2025. There are a few hundred participants in the program.

Repaving meetings are being held during April.

The NOVA District of VDOT has issued new guidance for installing crosswalks which causes the installation costs to increase.

There is nothing new to report on the Active Fairfax plan or map.

Bike Share stations have been added to the network at the Herndon Metro South and at The Boro Tysons.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the TSB Committee on May 14, 2025.



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Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

Kenneth Comer,
Chairman
(at large)

Robert Cosgriff
(Braddock)

Lydia Lawrence
(Dranesville)

Erin Partlan
(Franconia)

Alex Rough
(Hunter Mill)

(vacant)
(Mason)

Jim Klein
(Mount Vernon)

Brooks Stephens
(Providence)

Noel Popwell
(Springfield)

Karen Amphe
(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)

April 9, 2025

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

Dear Chairman McKay,

The Trails, Sidewalks, and Bikeways (TSB) Committee urges the Board of Supervisors to reconsider cuts to pedestrian and bike safety in the FY26 budget. According to statewide data, *pedestrian and cyclist fatalities in Fairfax County have doubled in 2024* compared to 2023. The 20th fatality in December 2024 occurred when a 14-year-old student was struck and killed by a vehicle while trying to cross Old Keene Mill Road. Mason District continues to have the highest number of pedestrian and cyclist traffic incidents, with over 200 pedestrian and cyclist crashes from 2021 to 2023.

County residents have experienced damaged or blocked trails, speeding vehicles, insufficient crosswalks and pedestrian signals, and failure of vehicular drivers to yield to pedestrians.

The TSB emphasized two specific measures that will do the most to alleviate this problem:

1. Restore funding for the Fairfax County Department of Transportation's Safe Streets for All Program position. In 2022, the Board of Supervisors recognized the numerous improvements that were needed for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists by unanimously endorsing the Safe Streets for All Program recommendations. A program manager is critical to making our transportation system safe for all users—pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicle users. Unfortunately, the one staff position to facilitate these recommendations remains unfunded year after year. The safety of pedestrians and cyclists on Fairfax County streets should not be considered optional.
2. Restore the \$250,000 cut from FCPA's trails maintenance budget. FCPA's 330 miles of trails in Fairfax County are a vital part of the active transportation network, providing transit routes to work and school. This cut reduces FCPA's trail maintenance budget by 50%, creating even more of a backlog for basic trail maintenance. When it takes FCPA weeks to over a month to remove trees that block trails or to perform basic trail repairs, more riders and walkers are forced onto streets and into traffic.

These are your own goals. The Board has repeatedly affirmed that the safety of County residents is a top priority. While we recognize that the FY26 budget is very challenging, we urge you to place the safety and wellbeing of its residents first by funding these programs.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Comer
Chairman

cc: Board of Supervisors
Bryan Hill, County Executive