



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission Meeting Notes

REGULAR MEETING – April 19, 2022, at 7:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Web Site: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings>

Note-Taker: Roger Hoskin

TAC Members in Attendance: Chair Mike Champness (Dranesville), Vice Chair MaryPauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason), Linda Sperling (At-Large), Kevin Morse (Braddock), Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon), Jeremy Hancock (Providence), and Eric Thiel (Springfield).

TAC Members Absent: Kelley Westenhoff (Hunter Mill), Alexis Glenn (Lee), and M. David Skiles (Sully).

Others in Attendance: Aileen Santiago, Chief, Streetlights and Developer Defaults, and Utilities Design & Construction Division and Martin Ortiz-Gonzalez, Engineer III, both from Fairfax County Public Works and Environmental Services. Calvin Lam FCDOT and Staff Liaison to the TAC.

Special Guests/Observers/Public: Shyamali Hauth, Hunter Mill District Office

Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chair Champness at 7:36 pm. Chair Champness then proceeded with the protocol necessary to justify a virtual meeting.

To fulfill the procedural obligations of virtual meetings, Chair Champness and Commissioner Jones performed the opening procedures for a virtual meeting via WebEx. Meeting recording and materials will be posted online at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings

The location of each member was announced by voice because they are participating remotely from their private residence.

- Linda Sperling (At-Large) – Clifton
- Kevin Morse (Braddock) – Burke
- Chair Michael Champness – McLean
- Secretary Roger Hoskin (Mason) – Falls Church
- Pete Sitnik (Mount Vernon) – Mount Vernon
- Jeremy Hancock (Providence) – Falls Church
- Eric Thiel (Springfield) – Fairfax Station

- Vice Chair MaryPauline Jones (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board) – Herndon

Chair Champness made a first motion to *"determine that each member's voice can be adequately heard by each other member of this Commission."* It was seconded by Commissioner Sitnik and unanimously approved.

Note: Commissioner Hoskin had some technical difficulties with his headset, but the Commission could hear him well. Later, he was fully participating in the discussion without further issues.

Chair Champness made a second motion that *"the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for this Commission to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting. I further move that this Commission may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line, and that the public may access this meeting by Microsoft Teams online platform or by calling: 1-571-429-5982, phone conference ID: 692 790 810. The phone number for ADA is 711. Access information is also available at the TAC website at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/tac/meetings".* It was seconded by Commissioner Morse and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chair Champness made a third motion that *"all of the matters on the agenda previously furnished and posted on the TAC website are necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of this Commission's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities".* It was seconded by Commissioner Morse and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Morse made a motion to approve the March Minutes. It was seconded by Commissioner Jones and approved unanimously.

Fairfax County Streetlight Bulb Replacement Process

Streetlights in Fairfax County are owned and operated by Dominion Energy (96%) or Northern Virginia Electrical Cooperative (NOVEC) the remaining 4%. The exception is that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) owns and operates streetlights along Interstates and major intersections. The County pays a monthly fee for maintenance. Streetlight requirements are based on Public Facilities Manual. The Manual includes the National Roadway lighting standard and the International Dark-Sky Association guidelines.

The Department's services include the five-year program to convert all streetlights to Light-Emitting Diode (LED) technology. Begun in 2019, the program is approximately half completed. The citizen streetlight program responds to complaints from citizens or the Board of Supervisors' offices. Assist with upgrading lighting deficiencies. The Department manages Streetlight Outage reports. Any reported outages are replaced with newer LED fixtures. The Developer Streetlight Program supports Land Development Services on all developer streetlight plans. Since 1988, all new land developments in the County have been required to install streetlights as a condition of plan approval.

Commissioner's questions centered on reporting multiple outages. Each outage must be reported, since there is no formal survey program for identifying multiple outages along a particular highway. It was pointed out that the maintenance agreement is based on a governing statewide agreement. Another commissioner raised a question about costs of new installations. The cost is variable depending on whether it's an attachment of a light to an existing pole or installation of a new pole and energizing that pole. A further issue concerned citizen initiative for streetlight installation. There is currently no funding for new installation. Particular communities may initiate a self-funded program but such a program must meet County regulation. Another question concerned lights that are not on the County interactive map; these are VDOT lights and entirely under VDOT jurisdiction. Presently, VDOT does not have an interactive map like the County. One Commissioner raised the possibility of collection outage data from satellite image data. The Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association is the umbrella organization which engages the utilities maintenance contract for all municipalities in the Commonwealth.

There currently is no automated way to interface VEPGA, VDOT, and the County to collect outage data and report it. The TAC could help improve the interface among those agencies and the utilities responsible for street lighting, particularly VDOT. An action initiative was discussed.

Public Comment Period

Since there were no members of the public present, there were no comments.

Other Business and Announcements

Upcoming meeting agendas were discussed, specifically the legislative update. Commissioners were urged to review their particular interest areas and use that to prompt agenda items.

Agenda items for May 2022 meeting

- General Assembly Update
- Funding for sidewalks

Possible Future meeting topics

- Richmond Highway Corridor Study Update
- Dulles Airport
- Planning Commission and TAC join meeting

Adjournment

Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 pm. It was seconded by Commissioner Stinik and unanimously approved by the Commission.