

West Falls Church Active Transportation Study: Advisory Group Meeting #1 – Meeting Summary  
December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7:00 pm – 9:10 pm

The first meeting of the West Falls Church Active Transportation Study (ATS) Advisory Group began shortly after 7:00 pm with opening remarks by Supervisor Foust to introduce the study and thank the Advisory Group members for their participation. FCDOT facilitated introductions and described the department's role as a facilitator in ATS meetings, highlighting that the study and resulting recommendations will be community-driven. It was also noted that a Technical Group made up of various public and private stakeholders, would be assisting the Advisory Group by providing guidance on all proposed active transportation recommendations.

Each Advisory Group member was asked to mention the associations and neighborhoods they are representing and indicate areas where they feel active transportation improvements should be focused. According to the Advisory Group, focus areas should include (in no particular order):

- Additional sidewalks and accommodations for student safety and accessibility.
- Implementing Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs for the schools within the study area.
- Pedestrian safety improvements to the Westmoreland Street / Haycock Road intersection.
- Improvements to pedestrian and bicycle access along Haycock Road, Great Falls Street, and Westmoreland Street.
- Slowing down vehicular traffic on residential streets, including on Highland Ave.
- Smart growth and walkability.
- Traffic calming on Chestnut Street and Gordons Road and improvements to the Chestnut Street / Gordons Road intersection.
- Consideration for communities outside of the West Falls Church Transit Station Area so that more people can safely walk and bike to the West Falls Church Metrorail station.
- Lack of access from Tysons via Route 7, and from the W&OD Trail to the West Falls Church Metrorail Station.
- Integrating pedestrian and bicycle accessibility with the proposed development at the West Falls Church Metrorail station, particularly along and across Route 7 and Haycock Road.

Next, FCDOT facilitated a discussion on the scope of work for the study. The Advisory Group suggested that recommendations for improvements should not be solely facilities-based, but could include placemaking and quality of life improvements, such as street trees and wayfinding signage. Some members expressed the need for updated traffic information, which FCDOT agreed to accommodate in the form of projected average daily traffic volumes on select streets. In terms of outreach, one member suggested that a structured survey be created to solicit public input and that a method be devised for consistent compiling of community feedback to help prioritize projects.

Next steps were outlined for the Advisory Group, which included revisions to the draft scope of work and study area map, and the beginning of the existing conditions assessment. Lastly, a public comment period included suggestions to focus on safety for school children, coordination with the City of Falls Church, and a recommendation for improving access to the Metrorail station from the Pimmit Hills neighborhood along Route 7. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm.