

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022 at 7:05 p.m.

Location: Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams Software

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Note Taker: Beth Iannetta

Committee Members in Attendance:

Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Elizabeth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association),

Committee Members Absent:

Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), James Albright (Mason), Erin Partlan (Lee), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), Michael Depue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), *Vacant* (Providence), *Vacant* (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board)

Others in attendance:

Nicole Wynands (FCDOT), Lauren Delmare (FCDOT), Michael Davis (LDS), Austin Gastrell (DPD)

Call to Order: This remote meeting used Microsoft Teams video conferencing. Mr. Comer read the recitals required under Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, the uncodified Fairfax County Board of Supervisors emergency ordinance adopted on 14 April 2020, and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3700 to -3714) pertaining to meetings that must be conducted remotely during a declared State of Emergency as being essential to the continuity of government. As required by the legal guidance, Mr. Comer introduced a motion, which was seconded, that this meeting is required for conducting an essential governmental function and must be conducted remotely. He requested that the motion be approved by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved. Mr. Comer next conducted a roll call to determine which members, staff, and other participants were in attendance and that every member, staff, and other participants could hear every other attendee clearly. Following this roll call and determining that a quorum was reached, Mr. Comer moved that the committee confirm that every participant could hear every other participant clearly. The motion was seconded; Mr. Comer called for approval by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: Draft minutes for the July 2021, September 2021, November 2021, December 2021 and January 2022 were distributed for review and comment. No recommended edits were received, and no edits were offered at the meeting. Therefore Ms. Iannetta made a motion to approve the draft minutes. The motion, seconded by Mr. Liebert were approved by acclamation and hearing no objections

Presentation: Parking Reimagined

- Mr. Davis, of Land Development Services, and Mr. Gastrell, of the Department of Planning & Development, presented an introduction to the Parking Reimagined study currently underway. The study's purpose is to update the county's parking regulations which haven't been updated since the 1980's. Parking demand is dynamic and needs to be balanced with other county goals. The study intends to "right size" parking rates using site character and location to inform the parking requirement. New tools and technologies have influenced driver behaviors and parking management strategies. Parking should be considered a resource and is a crucial component of land development. It can be reused to provide other resources that are otherwise lacking or limited by parking requirements. The project team has been seeking feedback in various ways since the project initiation and will continue to do so. Overall project goals include parking best practices, clarity and flexibility, streamlining the review process, evaluation of the standard parking rates in the Zoning Ordinance and propose changes. The project timeline included a community outreach portion which has already begun. The project team will draft proposals and reengage the community in early to mid-2022. Draft Zoning Ordinance amendments are tentatively expected to go before the Planning Commission in late 2022 and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) sometime after that. The team will be presenting to the BOS Land Development Subcommittee on March 15, 2022, and that presentation will include a framework for strategies, minimum bicycle parking requirements and electric vehicle parking. After the presentation, the project team fielded questions from the committee members.
- Mr. Comer inquired if there were any particular issues related to trails, sidewalks and bikeways that were relevant to the project. Mr. Davis explained that so far nothing controversial has been raised. Walkability and the introduction of minimum bicycle parking in the Zoning Ordinance are a couple issues he could think of offhand. Mr. Klein discussed incentives to provide bicycle parking at or near trails. Mr. Newman fully encouraged minimum bicycle parking. He recommended the team consider the interaction between vehicle parking and pedestrians and how the land could be better utilized. Ms. Lawrence inquired about potential barriers related to schools and included student parking fees. Mr. Albers discussed the need for quality bicycle parking and security. Ms. Iannetta inquired about any information from the ActiveFairfax pedestrian and bicycle demand analysis that could be used to inform this study in terms of areas in the county where demand is high. Mr. Newman inquired about updates to the PFM in terms of better bicycle facility design. Any way that would make it easier to convert underused parking would be encouraged including an easier process to achieve reductions and flexibility for approval. Mr. Tipton added that ways to retrofit older

sidewalk would help walkability. Parking lots can be large barriers riders have to navigate through.

- Additional information and updates can be found on the Parking Reimagined website: [Parking Reimagined | Planning Development \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/parking-reimagined)

Discussion:

- **Safe Routes to School Funding** (Shawn Newman) – Mr. Newman stated he sent a draft of the letter for committee members to review and inquired if there was any feedback. He gave a quick recap on the purpose and previous discussions had amongst TSB members. Mr. Klein made on motion to revise the letter as discussed and have the final version sent to the BOS for consideration with the School Board members copied. The motion, seconded by Ms. Lawrence, was approved by affirmation and no objections.
- **Route 50 Transportation Study** (Howard Albers) – An update was requested regarding the proposed funds and anticipated timeline for this initiative. FCDOT stated that the funding was approved as part of the carryover budget recommendations. The project scopes have not been finalized. A more detail update can be given next month.
- **Fairfax County/Prince William County Trail Coordination** (Karen Ampeh) – This item was not discussed as Ms. Ampeh was not in attendance.

Staff Report:

- **Vacant Committee Seats** – FCDOT staff stated they would follow up with Chris Wells regarding this issue.
- **Upcoming Presentations** – An updated presentation on the Safe Streets for All program was recommended.

New/Active/Unresolved Issues:

- **Braddock Road Improvement Project Status** – Discussion on the project and concerns regarding the proposed pedestrian/bicycle design.
- **Burke Centre VRE** – Mr. Newman announced a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Burke Centre VRE Connector Phase IV bicycle and pedestrian project on March 20, 2022, at 4pm.
- **Rolling Road Widening** – Mr. Newman requested a project update at next month's meeting.

Citizen comments/Question & Answer Period: (if any)

- None

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.