



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)

January 10, 2024, 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), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling - FABB), Jim Corcoran (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association) Tyler Schiefelbein (Springfield), Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Erin Parlan (Franconia District), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society and Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District).

Members Absent:

James Albright (Mason District), Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), and Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District), and Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builders Industry Association).

Others in Attendance: Nicole Wynands (FCDOT) and Ray Derr (resident of Reston, VA).

Call to Order: Ken Comer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Jim Corcoran asked that 2 clarifications be made to the December 13, 2023, draft minutes related to his presentation on park authority signs. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with the requested clarifications. The motion was approved.

Presentation:

Ray Johnson, Carroll.Johnson@fairfaxcounty.gov, and Smitha Chellappa Smitha.Chellappa@fairfaxcounty.gov from the Coordination and Funding Division of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) provided information to the committee about the funding for transportation projects. Often a combination of local, state, regional, federal, and private funding sources are needed. Transportation projects must be included in various transportation plans and the capital improvement plans to receive funding through general obligation bonds.

Smitha provided information about how Fairfax County transportation projects can be funded by

- the annual county budget process,

Fairfax County Department of Transportation

4050 Legato Road, Suite 400

Fairfax, VA 22033-2895

Phone: (703) 877-5600 TTY: 711

Fax: (703) 877-5723



- Capital Improvement Program (a 5-year plan),
- Transportation Priorities Plan (work on the 2025-2030 program begins in June 2024),
- Service/Tax Districts, or
- General Obligation or Revenue Bonds.

The next transportation bond referendum is scheduled for 2028. Staff takes about 1½ to 2 years to develop the priorities to be included in the transportation bond. General obligation bonds are used to finance capital projects with a 20-year lifespan projects that are specified in the voter referendum.

The public should contact the FCDOT Active Transportation Section and a member of the Board of Supervisors with transportation projects that need funding to be built.

Election of Committee Officers

The TSB committee bylaws require the committee to elect officers on an annual basis. Committee Vice Chair asked the committee members if anyone would like to serve as Chairman for the next year. Only Ken Comer agreed to serve as the Committee Chair. Since there were no other volunteers, Ken Comer was elected as Chairman.

Ken Comer asked for nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary. Bob Cosgriff, Vice Chairman and Howard Albers, Secretary, agreed to serve the committee again for another year.

Discussions:

The committee discussed the contents of the draft TSB 2023 Annual Report. Based on the committee's suggestions, the report will be revised, and Ken Comer will submit it to the county.

Shawn Newman informed the committee about the following bicycle-related bills being considered by the Virginia House of Delegates:

- [HB1266](#) - *Implements several changes to bicycle (and scooter, etc) operation including Safety Stop, Riding Two abreast and reduced "As far right as possible" language.*
- [HB1077](#) - *Standalone Safety Stop, allows bikes to treat stop signs (with exceptions) as yield signs*
- [HB657](#) - *Bikes May Proceed on Walk Signal. Provides people riding a bicycle with the same safety benefits as pedestrians when an intersection includes a Leading Pedestrian Interval. We significantly revised the proposed language for this initiative based on discussions with VDOT over several meetings earlier in 2023.*
- [HB21](#) / [HB1072](#) - *Expands the definition of school zones to include areas surrounding schools where the presence of students reasonably requires a special warning to motorists (would allow for additional signage, slower roads, and complement the Automated Speed Enforcement Program)*
- [HB937](#) - *Prevents school districts from losing transportation funds for implementing innovative low-cost or no-cost alternatives such as bike buses*

- [HB748](#) - *E-bike rebate program. Provides a \$500 rebate applied toward payment for the purchase of a new electric power-assisted bicycle (additional \$600 for households under 300% of federal poverty level)*
- [HB793](#) - *Expands authority of any locality to reduce speed limit to less than 25 miles per hour on any road*
- [HB20](#) - *Allows localities to implement photo speed monitoring (Automated Speed Enforcement) in any location*
- [SB336](#) - *Allows localities to implement photo speed monitoring in "high-risk intersection segment" (defined in the bill)*

Shawn also mentions the Arrested Mobility Report -- Barriers to Walking, Biking, and E-Scooter Use in Black Communities in the United States - <https://arrestedmobility.com/report/>.

Bob Cosgriff led a discussion on the TSB Priorities. Next month the committee will consider a letter to the Board of Supervisors advocating for increased funding for trails for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Brooks Stephens asked if the orange barrels near the new Arlington Boulevard Trail, west of Prosperity near some driveways, were a new way of keeping motorists off the new trail. Nicole said that the trail is not yet open to the public, and the orange barrels should not be permanently part of the trail.

Jim Klein reported on the trail maintenance research he has been conducting. The research will be helpful as the committee drafts the letter on the need for better trail maintenance in county parks and for the future work of the committee.

Public Comments:

Ray Derr introduced himself as a 30-year resident of Reston, a retired Project Manager of the Transportation Research Board at the National Academy of Sciences, an author of various engineering documents, and a contributor to the recently released revision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) [MUTCD 11th Edition - 2023 \(dot.gov\)](#). Ray will be presenting information on the recent MUTCD changes at the February 21, 2024, virtual FABB meeting. Ray wanted to learn more about the TSB Committee and learn how his experiences may be helpful in Fairfax County.

Staff Report:

Nicole Wynands reported on the revised FCDOT Bicycle Parking Guidelines. In responding to a question from the committee, Nicole commented that Fairfax County Public Schools will *not* build new secure bicycle parking unless the requirements are included in the school board design manual. Secure bike parking currently *cannot* be built using school bond funding.

Questions were asked about the terms of the current TSB committee members. Some members were recently reappointed and other members do not remember when their committee appointment ends. A list of Board of Supervisors (BOS) appointments is usually made available soon after a new BOS term begins.

Upcoming Presentations:

The following topics were suggested for the next TSB committee meeting:

- Approve a letter to the BOS on funding for county trail maintenance
- NOVA District VDOT Bike Pedestrian Coordinator – (Heidi Mitter first choice of presenter)
- State Trails Manager (Second choice of presenter) [State Trails Office | Virginia Department of Transportation](#)

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the TSB Committee on March 13, 2024