

## **Fairfax County Trails and Sidewalks Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 10, 2018

**Location:** Conference Room #8, J. Hamilton Lambert Conference Center, Fairfax County Government Building

**Members Present:** Robert W. Cosgriff (Braddock) acting as Vice-Chairman, Karen Ampeh (Sully), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon), Stiven Foster (Providence), James Albright (Mason), Chris Maimone (WABA), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Tom McFarland (FCPA)

**Committee Members Absent:** Ken Comer (At-large and Chair), Robert W. Michie (Lee), Wade Smith (Dranesville), Jeff Anderson (Hunter Mill) Soledad Portilla (Northern Virginia Builders Industry Association), Chester Friedenthal (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations), Dan Ilghaut (Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority),

**County Staff Present:** Chris Wells (Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, FCDOT), Robert Picora (FCDOT); Vanessa Aguayo (FCDOT), AJ Hamidi (FCDOT); also present to assist in FCDOT briefing: Dan Reinhard (VDOT), John McDowell (RK&K)

**Citizens Present:** Howard Albers (Pine Ridge), Jehanne Arslan (Gabrielson Bridge), Carter Cooper, Lene Palmer (Twin Mill), Dan Palmer (Twin Mill), Bret Busse (Hunter Valley Association), Sheila Dunheimer (HVA/Co-chair, Coalition to Replace the Gabrielson Bridge), Augie Dunheimer (Coalition), Karen Jones Niedringhaus (Fairfax Trails and Streams Potomac Heritage Association), Anne Mader (FABB)

**Call to Order:** Vice-Chairman Robert Cosgriff called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** September 2018 minutes were not available; they will be presented for approval at the November 2018 meeting.

**Presentation:** Vanessa Aguayo and AJ Hamidi, assisted by Dan Reinhard (VDOT) and John McDowell (RK&K), presented a slide presentation of plans for Route 1 widening (Jeff Todd Way to Napper Lane) and a bus rapid transit (BRT) component from the Huntington Metro Station to Fort Belvoir (approximately nine miles with nine stations envisioned). The widening project is a VDOT effort and the BRT is being managed by FCDOT; the two projects are interrelated. The briefing covered time-lines, funding, and technical details. Of interest to the committee is the

inclusion of separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities on both sides of the BRT corridor. Pedestrian underpasses at the proposed Dogue Creek and Little Hunting Creek bridges are being considered in the planning phase. Committee members asked several questions regarding how pedestrians will safely cross Route 1 to get to the BRT stations or to the other side, bikes on buses, other BRT models looked at, signal synchronization (for cars/buses/pedestrians), etc.

**Staff Report:** Chris Wells discussed the committee charter. Based on County Attorney review, language pertaining to FOIA provisions needs to be added to the charter previously approved by the committee. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to add the County Attorney-recommended language to the charter. Chris Wells stated the updated version would be scheduled as a Board item at the 20 November, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting.

### **Unfinished Business:**

The committee discussed a draft letter from the committee to the Board of Supervisors regarding an out-of-turn Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal to delete language from the Plan for two trails through Huntley Meadows Park. After considerable discussion of the text of the draft in light of several suggestions from members for changes, the committee agreed that the letter should be redrafted by Stiven Foster (Providence) and be the subject of further review and approval at the November, 2018 committee meeting.

The committee next heard from several citizens regarding the Gabrielson Gardens bridge replacement. A coalition of community associations in the area has formed to work with the Sully District supervisor (Kathy L. Smith) on ways to replace a recently-demolished bridge over Difficult Run to re-connect the two sides. The FCPA's Gerry Connolly Cross-County Trail lies on the west side Difficult Run, Gabrielson Gardens Park (FCPA) on the east. Tom McFarland (FCPA) said that he has been tasked to conduct a feasibility study/cost estimate for the replacement. (He noted that FCPA did not own the previous bridge.) He has issued an RFP and should have a proposal by October 12 from a consulting firm to perform this study. He is working closely with the Coalition on this issue. Several citizens in attendance addressed questions to the committee or to Mr. McFarland. The Coalition to Replace the Gabrielson Bridge is proposing the idea of a public-private partnership to accomplish this task, and asked for committee support. Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon) moved that the committee support the concept of a public-private partnership for the Gabrielson Bridge replacement. The motion was seconded and approved

Mr. Wells briefed the committee on the Transportation Priority Plan in light of the recent reallocation of funds to the Commonwealth's share of dedicated Metro funding. Bottom line: right now, there is no money for projects that had not been funded—these will be delayed—but money previously appropriated will enable some projects to continue. Meanwhile, efforts continue to identify new sources of funding to replace current shortfalls.

Mr. Wells reported that the multi-use trail that is part of the I-66 Outside-the-Beltway mega-project is a “work in progress,” FCDOT is meeting monthly with VDOT and FCPA on right-of-acquisition, funding, technical issues, etc., with the goal being funding agreements between and among the parties to permit trail construction both on- and off-corridor.

Regarding the VDOT Pedestrian-Bike Safety Plan, Mr. Wells indicated there could be some “spot safety funding” to address “hot spots” in Fairfax County (e.g., along the Little River Turnpike corridor).

A Bike-Share agreement with WMATA will go to the BOS in October.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business before the committee, the Vice-Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is Wednesday, 14 November, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Conference Room #8. The following meeting is Wednesday, 12 December, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Conference Room #8.

Submitted:

Robert W. Cosgriff  
(Braddock District Representative and Vice-Chairman)