

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Location: Remote Meeting via Cisco Webex Video Teleconferencing

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

Note Taker: Alex Rough

Committee Members in Attendance:

Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Wade H.B. Smith (Dranesville), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Deborah Cohen (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Elizabeth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Michael DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association)

Committee Members Absent:

Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Dyami Pipkin (Lee), James Albright (Mason), Mark Tipton (Fairfax Council of Community Associations), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), *Vacant* (Providence)

Others in attendance: Chris Wells (FCDOT); David Loss (FCDOT); Nicole Wynands (FCDOT); Casey White; Ethan Vitorovich; Philip Latasa, (Friends of Accotink Creek)

Call to Order: This remote meeting used Cisco Webex 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: Ms. Iannetta stated the June 2020 through December 2020 TSB Draft Minutes were sent out to the committee members electronically for review. Mr. Klein recommended a website added to the final draft to identify where readers can find the minutes on

the TSB website. Hearing no other correction or additions, Ms. Iannetta moved to approve the bulk of the 2020 Minutes for approval, Karen Ampeh seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Status Report:

- **Active Fairfax Transportation Plan** (Nicole Wynands) Notice to proceed on Phase 1B was issued to keep work moving forward until the Phase 2 funding can be approved. The equity analysis will be tweaked in the coming months. The draft Vision, Goals and Objectives documents have been posted for public review with comments due on September 19th. Two community meetings will be held on September 13th at 7pm and September 15th at 6:30 pm and both will be virtual. BOS approval on the document is expected shortly after in the fall. The Safe Streets for All recommendations are still under review and there is no update now. Mr. Comer inquired on how comments can be submitted particularly lengthy commentary. Ms. Wynands instructed those comments should be sent in via email to the project email address. Mr. Klein asked for clarification on the topic for the upcoming public meetings in September which would focus on the draft Vision, Goals and Objectives document.

Discussion:

- **Route 1 Corridor** (Jim Klein, Mt. Vernon/staff): Mr. Klein requested an update on the recommendations and requests made by the TSB Committee including the status of the speed study, the status of the pedestrian safety implementation measures from BOS Board Matter and TSB Committee follow up letter, status of the proposed lower speed design for the Route 1 BRT project, and any actions underway to address the recent spike in pedestrian fatalities along Rt. 1 (Pohick Road, Kings Highway, Lorton Road, Telegraph Road at Franconia Road). Mr. Wells explained that the pedestrian safety implementation measures at eight signalized intersections have been updated to include a leading pedestrian interval. They are piloting the pedestrian recall and the “rest in walk” features at three locations in the corridor, and signage and crosswalk marking improvements at all sixteen signalized locations is planned. VDOT has begun the speed study analysis this month. The Route 1 Widening and the BRT projects are allowed to utilize a 35mph design speed instead of the 45mph design speed. FCDOT is taking a risk to design those plans using the lower design speed before the speed study analysis is complete. Mr. Klein was happy to hear the news.
Mr. Klein informed the committee about a planned community rally/protest tomorrow at 4pm on Richmond Highway at Sherwood Hall Lane proposed intersection that mimics a 1967 protest in which a couple of coffins were placed in Richmond Highway to call attention to the dangerous intersection.

Citizen comments/Question & Answer Period:

- **Cinder Bed Road Bikeway** – Philip Latasa, of the Friends of Accotink Creek, video presentation. Their position is any conversation to asphalt surface project goes against the county’s climate change goals, the Chesapeake Bay resiliency goals, and the carbon emission goals. There has been no evidence to demonstrate that these types of projects would reduce carbon emissions if trail users chose to use the bikeway versus driving their vehicles.

- **Casey White** – Interested in Reston trails and while there are many paved trails in that area they are designed mainly for leisure. He has reviewed some of the recommendations he has seen on the ActiveFairfax map, and he was enthused about what he saw. He has evaluated trail connections using the Elastic Thread Model, which tries to connect the school districts, economic districts, used population of an area it helps map out what general direction people would travel.
- **Ethan Vitorovich** - Boy Scout badge to attend a public meeting and take notes on the arguments and decisions during a public meeting.

Staff Report:

- Chris Wells noted that the Biannual Street-Smart Campaign is about to kick off which coincides with Daylight Savings Time.
- Sunrise Valley Drive Project from Soapstone to Reston Parkway Update- Utility and right-of-way constraints necessitated a change in scope from cycletrack to a shared use path. FCDOT plans to meet with FABB to discuss the project changes to the project scope.
- I-66 Parallel Trails Update – Staff continues to work with VDOT on the segments that are moving forward including interim designs near the Vienna Metro Station.
- Capital Bikeshare – Contract was recently renewed, and staff is coordinating the Fairfax County portion of the regional contract. Shawn Newman inquired about scooters in Fairfax County. Chris Wells stated two companies have applied to operate and were authorized for the initial 300 scooters each. Data is expected to be shared as per the agreements to operate within the County. Davis Loss will be the point of contact in FCDOT for that information.

Active/Unresolved Issues:

- **Liaison with Transportation Advisory Committee (Jim Klein/Mt. Vernon)** – No update currently. Jim Klein explained he's been sending the TSB agendas to his TAC counterpart, but he plans to reach out to him to coordinate.
- **Capital Trails Coalition Network in Fairfax County** – Nicole Wynands has been working on the updated and expanded map. FCDOT staff has shared the information with this committee and BOS members. The FCDOT summer intern was assigned the project, but they did not have access to GIS. Nicole is tasked with digitizing the information collected over this summer. Mr. Albers inquired about the resolution being passed by neighboring jurisdictions in support of the CTC Network Map. Nicole Wynands would follow up with CTC staff.
- **BOS Proposed Carryover Budget Inquiry**- Mr. Albers inquired about pedestrian/bicycle studies for various project locations. The proposed carryover budget included \$2.7 million for the studies listed in the budget package.
- **Request for Information**- Mr. Comer requested a maintenance budget update on ped/bike facilities throughout the County. He is constantly reminding BOS members that the trail maintenance budgets are woeful at best. The current budget information would be helpful in getting more attention to increasing those budgets.
- **6th Tour de Mount Vernon** – Jim Klein noted the annual event is scheduled for Saturday, October 23rd, 2021. Volunteers are wanted so please consider helping.

- **I-495 Next Public Meeting** – Wade Smith noted an upcoming public meeting on September 29th, 2021. Mr. Smith inquired about any new news regarding the proposed trail being built with the widening of the Beltway. Chris Wells stated the project team has been working with the Timberley Community on addressing their concerns.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.