

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting – March 14, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Location:

Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035
Conference Room 8

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

Note-Taker: Vice Chairman Robert W. Cosgriff

Committee Members in Attendance: Karl Liebert (Springfield), Robert W. Michie (Lee), Robert Cosgriff (Braddock), Karen Ampeh (Sully), Soledad Portilla (Northern Virginia Builder's Industry Association), Chester Freedenthal (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Chris Maimone (Washington Area Bicyclist Association), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations)

Committee Members Absent: Representative At-Large and Chair Ken Comer, Jeff Anderson (Hunter Mill), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Wade H. B. Smith (Dranesville), Foster (Providence), Tom McFarland (Fairfax County Park Authority)

Others in Attendance: Nicole Wynands (FCDOT staff) and prospective members in an observer status, pending BOS confirmation, were: Anne Mader (Fairfax County Alliance for Better Bicycling), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Dave Wagner, resident of Mason District

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Robert Cosgriff at 7:03 p.m.

Agenda and Discussion Topics

Vice-chair Robert Cosgriff welcomed the prospective new members, Anne Mader and Katie McDaniel, and Dave Wagner. He thanked Jean Voss for her years of service to the committee.
Old Business

Approval of the Minutes

Separate motions were made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January, 2018 and February, 2018 meetings. Both motions were approved and the minutes adopted accordingly.

Staff Report

Nicole Wynands (FCDOT) announced two remaining public meetings pertaining to the 2018 VDOT paving project: Hunter Mills District, 19 March and Springfield District, 5 April. She provided a handout to attendees detailing all projects by district and briefly discussed the types of enhancements that would result: bike lanes (some buffered), sharrows, pedestrian cross-walks, road diets and other traffic calming measures. In response to a question from Mark Tipton (FCCCA), Nicole described how the list of projects is arrived at. There is extension coordination between VDOT and FCDOT, including surveys and design, then outreach by FCDOT with individual supervisors, then public meetings by district, then final adjustments based on all inputs, then approval by the BOS. Paving typically starts in May or June and is completed by October or November. VDOT contractors have wide autonomy to determine actual dates based on weather, site conditions, and other considerations.

Other Business

Nicole reported that three vacant positions within the Fairfax County Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs office have been advertised and interviews will commence shortly. Also, the committee charter will be submitted to the BOS for approval at the May 1, 2018, meeting.

Nicole provided an update on the FY2020-2023 Transportation Priority Plan. The list of projects has not been finalized, pending the “veto session” of the General Assembly, other potential transportation initiatives proposed by the new governor, and the status of possible Federal funding. The TPP may be finalized in June or July 2018.

I-66 Outside the Beltway (OTB) design is in process. Some preliminary construction may begin very soon. The cost of “off-corridor” trail connections is increasing due to site conditions and other factors; new sources of funding to handle this increase are being sought. Fairfax County Park Authority is involved in this as well, since some of the trails (main multi-use and connecting) go through FCPA parkland (Liz Cronauer cited Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, where some land will be taken incident to the realignment of the Braddock Road/Walney Road/Route 28/I-66 interchange. One positive is that there will be a bridge connecting Walney Road to Braddock Road, and there will be a trail on this bridge). Nicole reported that FCDOT has applied for two grants to support bike-share facilities and ‘wayfinding’ signage along the I-66 OTB corridor. Mark Tipton noted that the height of the wall separating cyclists and pedestrians on the portion of the trail inside the sound barriers is a very important consideration.

A question was asked about plans for Lake Accotink. Would there be more trails? Vice-Chair Robert Cosgriff (Braddock) briefly commented on Supervisor Cook’s plan for community meetings to discuss five possible solutions to the basic problem: high costs for dredging the lake every so many years. Additional comments on this topic were provided by Liz Cronauer (FCPA) and Karl Liebert (Springfield).

The committee discussed the “new” committee website. Not all the old information was entered into the new site. Some information is outdated/inaccurate. The county staff element responsible is “swamped” with updating the entire County site, so not everything is done. There was a sense that user interface could be better. The committee decided that the featured presentation at the April meeting would be the website. This will allow the committee the chance to provide input on possible enhancements to make the site more useful to citizens in terms of content and ease of navigation.

There is no further update on the Trail Volunteer program. One of the issues is determining who owns what trails. This has to be determined accurately for liability and other issues. In the meantime, the existing “Adopt-a-Trail” program is an option, per Nicole.

New Business

Liz Cronauer (FCPA) opened a discussion on the possible use of electric (battery) bikes (E-bikes) on FCPA trails. FCPA and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) have scheduled a meeting in April to jointly discuss this so that their respective regulations can be in conformity. At present, FCPA does not allow any motorized vehicles on its trails and roads (except for authorized service and emergency vehicles, or motorized wheelchairs for disabled persons in accordance with the ADA). Under current Virginia law, E-bikes are not considered to be a “motorized vehicle.” A lengthy discussion ensued. This provided Liz with many ideas for follow-

up to prepare for the upcoming FCPA/NVRPA April meeting. The committee will discuss the E-bike issue further at its April meeting.

Chester Freedenthal (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board) said he would send committee members a proposal for improved access for persons with disabilities to kayak/canoe launch facilities. The committee will take this up at the April meeting.

Announcements and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events/Other Meetings:

Title	Date	Time	Location
Bike To Work Day	5/18/2018		17 stops throughout the County

Upcoming Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee Meetings:

Date	Time	Location
4/11/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
5/9/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
6/13/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
7/11/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
8/8/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
9/12/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
10/10/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
11/14/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8
12/12/2018	7:00pm	Conference Room 8