



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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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)

February 14, 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:

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) Erin Parlan (Franconia District and Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), and James Albright (Mason District). and Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builders Industry Association).

### Members Absent:

Ken Comer (At Large/Chair), Tyler Schiefelbein (Springfield), Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), and Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District).

**Others in Attendance:** Nicole Wynands (FCDOT) and Evan Weiner, (resident of Reston, VA).

**Call to Order:** Bob Cosgriff, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. A quorum was not present.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the January 2024 minutes will be considered at the next meeting.

### Presentation:

Ms. Torsha Bhattacharya, the program manager for the VDOT State Trails Office, gave an overview of the office. With the permission of the presenter, Nicole Wynands recorded her presentation and the resulting questions and answers.

The trails office is authorized three positions, but currently, she is the only employee. The office is establishing trail definitions, identifying existing and planned trails, noting trail gaps as identified by localities, establishing best practices for trail development, and building a Virginia trail resource hub for both single-use and multi-use trails.

Ms. Bhattacharya agreed to obtain answers to the following questions and to send the VDOT answers to Nicole Wynands so she can then share the response with the committee members:

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- Frequently localities rather than VDOT are in a better position to identify needed trail improvements and maintenance. What can be done so VDOT can allocate funding to Fairfax County?
- Does VDOT intend to request additional funding during the next budget cycle to improve and maintain trails?
- Can the State Trails Office submit a line-item budget request to build and maintains trails?
- In Fairfax County there are orphan trails in the VDOT right-of-way, but since the trails are not in the VDOT system of records, VDOT does not maintain them. What can be done to provide the necessary VDOT funding for trail maintenance? Since the State Trail Office does not set trail policy for trail maintenance, who should the Trails Sidewalks, and Bikeway Committee contact at VDOT, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and the General Assembly for increasing trail maintenance funding?

**Discussions:**

The committee discussed the need for additional funding for park authority trails, better park trail signage, and evaluating and addressing the safety and environmental concerns of fair weather trail crossings. The Fairfax County FY 2025 budget is scheduled for release on February 20, 2024. Lydia Lawrence led a discussion about a draft letter to the Board of Supervisors. Lydia asks committee members to include their comments in Google Docs that she will be circulating. Comments are needed by March 2, 2024.

Shawn Newman reported that three bicycle bills have been approved by the Virginia House of Delegates. The bill will now be considered by the Virginia Senate.

**Public Comments:**

Evan Weiner, a resident of Reston, expressed his concern about the lack of bicycle parking at the Reston County Library and at Lake Fairfax Park. Jim Corcan asked Evan to e-mail him with his bike parking concerns at Lake Fairfax Park. Jim agreed to follow up on Evan's concerns.

**Staff Report:**

Nicole asked committee members to provide her with suggested intersections for turn-calming improvements. FCDOT will send a list to the County Supervisors in April 2024.

FCDOT is conducting a Route 29 Study. See [Fairfax County Launches Transportation Study on Route 29 | Transportation](#) for more information. A reply is needed by March 1, 2024.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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