

Fairfax Trails and Sidewalk Committee

February 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Committee Members Present:

Peter Christensen – Chair (Mount Vernon); Jeff Anderson (Hunter Mill); Ken Comer (At Large); Liz Cronauer (FCPA); Roger Wilson (Providence); Paul Johnson (No VA Builders Ind. Assoc.); Tom Kennedy (Braddock); Robert Michie (Lee); Wade Smith (Dranesville); Jean Voss (Clifton Horse Society); Alan Young (Springfield).

FCDOT Staff Present:

Chris Wells; Adam Lind; Vanessa Aguayo.

Review and Approve Minutes:

The minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Fairfax County DOT Staff Reports:

Zoning Waivers - Chris Wells reported that a presentation on waivers to the Countywide Trails Plan Requirement in Zoning Cases would be delayed until next month.

- Currently zoning waivers are distributed to a specified distribution list for review. Members of the Trails and sidewalk Committee are currently not on the list.
- The Charter for the Trails and Sidewalk Committee currently specifies that the committee will review waivers to DPW site plans but is silent regarding DPZ waivers to trails and sidewalk requirements.
- Chris Wells stated he would discuss this situation with Barbara Berlin and attempt to have the District members of the Sidewalk and Trails Committee included on the distribution list for identification of trail and sidewalk waivers associated with rezoning cases.
- Members should also interact with their supervisor's office as needed to understand where review of DPZ waivers are appropriate.

Summer Repaving Projects – Chris Wells reported on the status of identification of planned VDOT repaving of streets over the next year.

- The repaving schedule is still under review while in the process of placing contracts and is expected to be issued within a couple of weeks.

- Fairfax County is expected to receive about \$80 Million mostly for paving of residential streets
- While in the contracting state, the preliminary paving schedule is being reviewed by FCDOT for items consistent with marking requirements associated with the Bicycle Master Plan. Community meetings are being held and scheduled to review these plans. Adam Lind will advise the committee of upcoming community meetings associated with changes to pedestrian and bicycle accommodations as they are identified.
- Chris Wells will identify the VDOT web site location which identifies the paving schedule once this information is released to the public.
- The Tysons area will be repaved as a part of this effort and a citizens meeting will be held to discuss the potential for bike lane markings

I-66 Road Expansion – Chris Wells reported on planned expansion of I-66 outside of the Beltway.

- Virginia has established a high priority for installation of a HOT lane on I66 from I-495 to Haymarket. The plan is to have HOV-3 toll lanes similar to those on I-495 which will operate 24 hours a day.
- A Public hearing on the design is expected in 2016 with construction starting in 2017.
- Fairfax County has raised the issue of including a side trail through Fairfax County as an extension of the Custis Trail. This would include access to adjoining communities. The design consultants have agreed to actively consider this issue for planning purposes.
- Fairfax County has also asked that the design be such that it has the potential to accommodate an extension of the Orange Line in the future.
- All bridges across I-66 (except Blake Lane) will be rebuilt as a part of this expansion including consideration of the necessary pedestrian and bicycle crossing accessibility
- Wade Smith will prepare a draft letter to the Board of Supervisors, supporting the County's position on inclusion of an I-66 Trail and associated pedestrian and bicycle accessibility.

2015 General Assembly Issues – Chris Wells reported on bills currently before the General Assembly related to bicycle and pedestrian issues. These include;

- SB 1220 An amendment to specify that motorists not follow bicycles and other small electric vehicles more closely than is reasonable and prudent was not incorporated into the current requirement that motor vehicle shall not follow other motor vehicles more closely than is reasonable and prudent.
- SB 781 is proceeding in committee which would allow a motor vehicle to cross a double yellow line when it is safe and appropriate for passing a pedestrian or other device that is human powered such as a bicycle.

- SB 882 is proceeding in committee which would require drivers to wait for a reasonable opportunity before opening doors on the side of moving traffic.
- SB 1746 is proceeding in committee which would specify that where a bicycle path or trail designated by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, a bike lane or a shared use lane is available, bicycles shall be limited to such facilities and use of other roadway surfaces is prohibited.

New Business

Roughness of Bicycle Trails Surfaces - Wade Smith noted that the surfaces of bicycle trails was generally substantially rougher than roadways, making commuting on such trails difficult and sometimes hazardous. In conjunction with SB1746 above, this is particularly relevant where such trails are used for commuting purposes. It was identified that the cause of this condition is in part due to the use of different composition of asphalt and application method due to the narrower condition of the trails. Chris Wells agreed to evaluate whether a potential exists to be able to change the asphalt requirements for bicycle trails to make them smoother.

County Budget Review – Chris Wells noted that within the current County Budget review, there is likely to be little availability of funds for maintenance of trails and sidewalks due to the continuing budget reductions. This has been a continuing concern that the Board of Supervisors is aware of.

Six Year Trail and Sidewalk Plan – The Six Year Transportation Plan including the recent Transportation Bond has been approved. The county has established a planned sequence for implementing approved projects including sidewalk and trail projects. Chris Wells will provide to the committee by e-mail, the planned sequence for these projects.

Old Business

Web Page Development – Due to other pressing issues, little progress has been made on upgrading the web site. Adam Lind is continuing to work to improve the web site as effort is available.

Waiver Requirements – No new progress was identified in amending the Public Facilities Manual (PFM) to improve the process for dealing with sidewalk and trail waivers.

Trail Maintenance – No new progress has been made in this area. Tom Kennedy agreed to communicate with Tom Biesiadny relative to resolution of his comments when this issue was prepared for presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully,

Tom Kennedy
Acting Secretary