

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks, and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Notes
Regular Meeting – April 10, 2019

FCDOT office located at 4050 Legato Road, 22035
Conference Room 8
Web site: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Note taker: Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon)

Committee Members in Attendance: Representative At-Large and Chair Ken Comer, Robert Cosgriff (Braddock), Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Tom McFarland (Fairfax County Park Authority)

Committee Members Absent: Jeff Anderson (Hunter Mill), Robert Michie (Lee), Wade Smith (Dranesville), Chester Freedenthal (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Dan Ilghaut (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizen's Associations), James Albright (Mason), Karen Ampeh (Sully), Soledad Portilla (Northern Virginia Builder's Industry Association)

County Staff Present: Chris Wells (Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, FCDOT)

Others in Attendance: none

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Representative At-Large and Chairman Ken Comer at 7:18 pm

Approval of the Minutes

- December 2018 – approved with corrected date of December 12, 2018
- January 2019 – approved with editorial markup provided to Chris Wells, attendance to be added (missing sign in sheet)
- March 2019 - approved with editorial markup provided to Karl L.

Staff Report

Chris Wells and open discussion of committee role

1. **Discussion of Countywide Trails Plan and Bicycle Master Plan**, which are elements of the Comp Plan. The Countywide Trails Plan was last updated in 2002 (originally staffed by Planning and Zoning) .
 - In response to committee members request for summary of Countywide Trails Plan funding request, Chris provided (hard copy) a paragraph summary of the \$500,000 request that was given to the board as part of FY 2019 Third Quarter Review –

- Plans should be updated every five years
- Bicycle program created in 2006 – a bicycle master plan was adopted by BOS in 2014– a policy document with goals and best practices plus a bicycle master plan map,
- Resulted in two different maps with different recommendations for some off-road trails that were pulled from 2002 plan map onto bicycle trails master plan map
- Did not include “policy roads” – Bicycle Master Plan name for streets with TBD recommendations
- Only included existing roads, did not say anything about new streets, realigned, etc.
- Did not allow flexibility nor anticipate rapidly changing best practices (2014) such as protected bicycle lanes, etc.– AASHTO 2019 coming out soon
- Challenge is that the only Board approved guidance that can be given is from now out of date (2014) with more effective measures now available and vetted through peer review .
- New plan is needed to consolidate maps, introduce flexibility (e.g. matrix with speed/volume etc. that provides a range of suitable options) such as used in Montgomery County
- New plan also need to address geographic distributions/social equity

2. Role of committee for the plan update –

- Role of key stakeholder as either plan committee or part of a larger committee set up for the project.
- Suggest committee review scope of work for plan

3. Issue of committee role overall and input (meeting only once a month) to staff day to day activities and fast paced work flow of FCDOT was discussed.

- BOS member’s office staff is the most knowledgeable of issues broadly and is the point where issues and input need to be brought forward
- Different levels of committee input is possible:
 - Comp plan level/vision is the most influential broadly– e.g. Embark process typical section leads to future project guidance. Lincolnia (Mason District) is starting something similar, Annandale moving as well
 - But engineering level and details are not thought through at a broad level. Broader vision helps to coordinate over time, but need flexibility if possible.
 - Need to be voice for ped and bike needs through that process – speak up with lots of competition for available space in right-of-way for example.
 - Rezoning cases and ped/bike issues – at BOS District levels – not always of interest to whole committee, but the District rep and user group reps do have interests
 - Site plans and waivers – some confusion among new members about committee role. FCDOT site analysis staff should come to meeting to provide overview.

All levels above provide opportunities for input – development activity increasing especially in Hunter Mill and Providence – monitoring ensuring that vision advances as projects proceed from the comp plan vision

4. **Scooters legislation** – value of scooters for micro-mobility to transit is recognized. Management issues can now be addressed through newly passed legislation (that must include bicycles in use regulations). County can regulate parking. Must pass something by January 1 to take advantage of enabling legislation. Later can amend once in place.
5. **Grant and funding opps.** – Safe Routes to Schools - must have PTA support – letter from Principal or PTA for example (Sally Smallwood can maybe provide a link)
6. **HOT Lane Transportation Alternatives** – toll funding based program to support traveling public in the tolled corridor; bus and bike joint application or bikeshare examples discussed
7. **Update on large scale projects**
 - I-66 trail – moving into engineering phase relative to budget, scope and details naming of trail under consideration to help with placemaking, some naming alternatives leading to survey, then leading to recommendation for BOS and CTB
 - I-495 trail “Next” – limited discussion of northern extension of Express Lanes from Tysons to GW Parkway, coordinated with MD
 - Merrifield bike share expansion moving forward, TAP grant for Providence, creating critical mass toward additions to system at Falls Church, Vienna, Merrifield etc.)
 - Reston expansion for bike share possible after
8. **FCDOT response to Huntley Meadows** amendments – met internally with staff to develop next steps, reach out to FCPA, BOS offices, and then conduct stakeholder charrette, and lay out options that do not “impact” the park – mid-2019 to early 2020
9. **Other Unfinished Business**
 - Gabrielson Gardens Bridge fully funded for construction, design by January 2020 with construction 2020 – 100,000 from Supervisor plus 300k proffer. Sheila Dunheimer (Coalition for GGB) came in at the beginning of the meeting and thanked the Committee for their support
 - Committee responsibilities discussion (see above)
 - Comprehensive Maintenance Program - members at meeting were asked to contact their BOS member with a letter in support of dedicated trail Maintenance funding based upon 2013 study of the backlog (Jim Klein sent link to study with language <https://www.slideshare.net/mobile/fairfaxcounty/funding-and-maintenance-issues-for-walkways-march-15-2016>)
 - To catch up before existing deteriorating segments fail would require sustained funding (with inflation escalations) around \$1.3 million expenditures – board provided funding in the past which was very helpful but this is needed now
 - Update of Board Transportation Priorities Plan (none provided)
 - Monthly TDD status report was provided to the members earlier this month
 - Future Presentations (none provided)

Chair Adjourn 9:15