

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2020 7PM

Location: Remote Meeting via teleconferencing

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Committee Members in Attendance: Ken Comer (At-Large) (Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Karen Ampeh (Sully), James Albright (Mason), Stiven Foster (Providence), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon) Wade H. B. Smith (Dranesville), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations), Andrea Reese (NOVA Parks), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society)

Committee Members Absent: Karl Liebert (Springfield), Soledad Portilla (Northern VA Builder's Industry Associations), Washington Area Bicyclists Association (seat vacant), Lee District (seat vacant), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (seat vacant)

Staff in Attendance: Chris Wells, David Loss, Lauren Delmare, Tom Biesiadny (FCDOT)

Others in attendance: Rachel Dwyer Flynn, Deputy County Executive; one member of the public

Call to Order: This remote meeting, the third since Governor Northam's State of Emergency declaration of 12 March, 2020 prohibited all in-person gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was called to order by Ken Comer (Chair) at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Comer then 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: There were no meetings in April or May, 2020, as a result of the governor's State of Emergency declaration. February, June, and July 2020 meeting minutes will need to be approved at a later date.

Mr. Comer welcomed Ms. Flynn to the meeting and provided a brief background on the committee. He noted that sometimes it is difficult to turn ideas into results. For her part, Ms. Flynn said she was very interested in what the committee does in terms of her responsibilities for transportation within the County executive staff. She went on to say that land use planning needs to take pedestrian and bicycling into consideration. She cited the “Complete Streets” concept and noted that FCDOT was beginning to work on these issues as part of the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan.

A Q&A session followed, covering issues such as the County’s maintenance budget for roads/trails/sidewalks, zoning policy, the I-66 Outside-the-Beltway multi-use trail, the I-495 Northern Extension trail, VDOT’s Level of Service (LOS) methodology, outreach to historically underserved communities in the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan development, gaining state authority for our own road maintenance such as only Henrico and Arlington County currently have, the “urban transportation” model in Tysons and a pilot program in Mclean, Route 1 EMBARK program, speed limit on Route 1. Mr. Biesiadny, Chris Wells, and Lauren Delmare provided answers and background to the committee on these questions.

Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon) made a motion, seconded by Bob Cosgriff (Braddock) that the chair send a second letter to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors addressing pedestrian safety issues in the Route 1 corridor. After a discussion and input from Mr. Biesiadny that such a letter would help FCDOT inasmuch as they are addressing these issues through Board actions, the motion carried.

Chris Wells then provided a brief staff report. After discussions with the County Attorney, he stated that if information has to go to all members between meetings, the e-mail should be sent Blind Courtesy Copy (Bcc:); otherwise, if sent “To” or “Courtesy Copy” (Cc:) it would be construed as a meeting that had not been publicly announced. A second recommendation was for members to have a discrete e-mail address for all committee-related business that is different from their personal e-mail address. This helps in accountability and in replying to any VFOIA requests covering committee matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.