

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

Minutes

Regular Meeting – 7:00pm, September 11, 2019

**Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA
22035, Conference Room 7**

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

Note-Taker: Robert Cosgriff (Braddock, Vice-Chair)

Committee Members in Attendance: Wade Smith (Dranesville), Robert Cosgriff (Braddock, Vice-Chair), Karen Ampeh (Sully), Karl Liebert (Springfield), James Albright (Mason), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Stiven Foster (Providence), Robert Michie (Lee), Soledad Portillo (NVBA), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Beth Iannetta (FCPA), Shawn Newman (FABB)

Committee Members Absent: Ken Comer (At-large, Chair), Hunter Mill (seat vacant), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Coalition of Citizens Associations), Dan Iglhaut (NVRPA), WABA (seat vacant), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (seat vacant)

Staff in Attendance: Chris Wells (FCDOT)

Others in Attendance: Mrs. Robert Michie, Naomi Fireman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Transportation Manager, Mason Neck NWR)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Robert Cosgriff at 7:10 p.m.

Agenda and Discussion Topics

Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes for the June and July, 2019 meetings were not available for review and discussion. Therefore, the Vice-Chair deferred approval of those minutes to the October, 2019 meeting.

Staff Report:

Chris Wells briefed the committee on the following items:

- Nicole Wynands (Bicycle Program Manager) is attending the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) “Designing Cities 2019” conference in Toronto, Canada
- FCDOT Staff member Mackenzie Jarvis has accepted a position with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Her position will be advertised within a week.
- I-66 Outside the Beltway (OTB): The Vaden Drive bridge near the Vienna Metro station will be closing this fall for about 10 months. The Gerry Connolly Cross-County Trail passes over this bridge, so detours for trail users will need to be established.
- FCDOT continues to work with VDOT on off-corridor improvements. The BOS will vote on one agreement at the 24 September Board meeting. Two more agreements are in the process of being finalized. Due the costs of off-corridor trail connections/improvements, it might be necessary to

prioritize those in the eastern section of the I-66 OTB project and possibly delay some in the western section near the Prince William County line. FCDOT is awaiting cost estimates in order to proceed with planning.

- I-495 NEXT: FCDOT has not heard anything from VDOT on the status of planning for the trail alongside the proposed extension of the I-495 Express Lanes from Lewinsville Road to the American Legion Bridge. This might be due to Maryland's prioritization of the I-270 corridor for tolling as opposed to widening the American Legion Bridge.
- The BOS will vote on the Safe Routes to School program at the 24 September meeting.
- FCDOT is responsible for rectangular flashing beacons installed by VDOT in certain pedestrian-heavy areas. Contract negotiations for repairing beacons is ongoing. These beacons are 'advisory' not 'regulatory' as are other signals ("ped heads") at intersections.
- Chris Wells announced upcoming public meetings dealing with transportation issues including the McLean Task Force (9/16) and the Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit project (9/17). The Route One project is the largest transportation project in the County other than the Silver Line Metro extension project.
- Chris Wells provided hard-copies of the draft Scope of Work for the "Active Transportation Comprehensive Plan Update" which will revise the County's existing Bicycle Master Plan and Countywide Trails Plan and merge them into one document. The BOS approved \$300K to begin work on Phase I of this project, which will take 18-24 months. Upon completion of certain Phase I milestones, additional funding will be requested for Phase II. Chris requested that committee members review the document and provide comments to his office as soon as possible but in any case no later than the end of September.
- Chris Wells provided hard-copies of the proposed County regulations for "Shared Mobility Devices" (i.e., rental electric scooters). These regulations will be codified in a new Chapter 86 of the Fairfax County Code. Pursuant to a law passed by the General Assembly, jurisdictions must Approve regulations prior to 1 January, 2020. Two government entities are responsible for preparing the draft: the Department of Cable and Consumer Services (regulations pertaining to the "business" of e-scooters, e.g., business licenses/fees/taxes, etc.) and FCDOT (regulation of the "use" of such devices—speed limits, where permitted, etc.). The County Attorney's Office is involved in the legal review of draft regulations. The Consumer Protection Commission will vote on the draft regulations at the 9/17 meeting. There was some brief discussion of various provisions of the draft regulations. The Vice-Chair requested the point-of-contact to receive input from committee members. Comments should be sent NLT 9/16 directly to: Rebecca.Makely@fairfaxcounty.gov
- West County Trail: Chris Wells addressed the issues involved at the I-66/Compton Road intersection pertaining to connecting the I-66 OTB trail with the newly-designated "West County Trail" and the Cub Run Stream Valley Park trail system. Chris has spoken with Bill Niedringhaus (Fairfax Trails and Streams) about this linkage. Chris explained various technical issues that complicate the matter. Whereas FCDOT is providing the funding, VDOT is responsible for the engineering. In short, discussions and planning are continuing.

Unfinished Business:

- Huntley Meadows Trail Deletion: Jim Klein (Mount Vernon) asked if the Huntley Meadow east-west connector trail (to replace the deleted notional trail along the powerline right-of-way) will be included in the Scope of Work document. The short answer is "yes." There is an upcoming community meeting to discuss this in the context of the EMBARK (Route 1 project)
- Gabrielson Gardens Bridge replacement: Vice-Chair Robert Cosgriff reported that three members of the committee attended a gathering sponsored by Supervisor Smith (Sully) at the site of the

proposed replacement bridge over Difficult Run. The project is in the bid stage and is scheduled to be completed by summer of 2020. Members in attendance were Karen Ampeh (Sully) (on horseback), Karl Liebert (Springfield) (on mountain bike), and Robert Cosgriff (Braddock) (on foot).

- Jim Klein (Mount Vernon) made a motion that all items of old (unfinished) business be provided on the agenda for each meeting. The motion was seconded by James Albright (Mason) and approved unanimously by the committee.

Other Business:

- Stiven Foster (Providence) requested a graphic on best practices for bicycle/pedestrian crossing signals as an educational tool when discussing issues with supervisors and others. Chris Wells said that Nicole Wynands could provide that to committee members.
- There was a brief discussion about the INOVA property on Gallows Road in terms of transportation features, particularly the question of one or two ped/bike bridge crossings north and south of the site to Fairview Park on the east side of the Beltway. There was a hearing on the Inova site on 9/11 (same day as the committee meeting). Chris said this is an ongoing process involving Comprehensive Plan changes and rezoning. He said he could provide updated information at the October meeting.
- Jim Klein (Mount Vernon) provided some updated information about the status of the hoped-for trail connection over I-95 and the CSX tracks at Lorton. Things are moving in the right direction.
- Stiven Foster (Providence) asked about pedestrian fatalities. What is being done by the County to reduce them? Chris Wells stated that VDOT does an investigation (as does FCPD). FCDOT coordinates with VDOT and also FCPD to derive lessons learned. Stiven asked if there needs to be a review group. Chris said that FCDOT/VDOT/FCPD are meeting soon to discuss this issue. Stiven said the results of this coordination might be a good presentation for a future meeting.
- Wade Smith (Dranesville) asked about usage data on the new Vesper Trail in Tysons.
- Beth Iannetta (FCPA) said that signage for the East Coast Greenway has been purchased. The FCPA Board needs to approve a resolution to permit installation on the VDOT right-of-way (e.g. in Laurel Hill Park, Grist Mill Park, etc.).
- Mrs. Michie (citizen) spoke briefly about scooters and how they compete with pedestrians on sidewalks and trails.
- Vice-Chair Cosgriff introduced Ms. Naomi Fireman, FWS, who was attending to see what the committee did. She is the new Transportation Manager for the Mason Neck NWR, one unit of which lies in Fairfax County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Attachment A: Staff Report, February 13, 2019 Regular Meeting

The Fairfax County Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs team is currently working on the following items:

- Repaving/restriping
 - o FCDOT looks forward to a collaborative and fruitful repaving/restriping season with VDOT.
 - o Multiple roads are currently being considered for restriping. Final locations and configurations will be announced in March, after VDOT's annual budget has been finalized and contracts have been signed.
- Community meetings will be held in each district to gather feedback about the restriping plans.
 - March 4th, 6pm – Dranesville District
 - March 8th, 6pm – Lee District
 - March 13th, 6pm – Providence District
 - March 20th, 6pm – Springfield District
 - March 26th, 6pm – Sully District
 - April 1st, 6pm – Mason District
 - Hunter Mill, Braddock, Mt Vernon Districts: TBD
 - Bikeshare expansion
 - o The system will expand in Tysons and Reston, and add areas south of the Vienna Metro station, around the Merrifield/Dunn Loring metro station and near the West Falls Church metro station in 2019-2020.
 - Lime, a micro mobility that offers Bikeshare (both with and without electric assist) and electric scooters, plans to launch a scooter system in Fairfax County in March of this year.
 - The job posting for a new member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs team just closed.
 - Four new Bicycle and Pedestrian Ambassadors were trained in January. Committee members should feel free to suggest/encourage others to participate in this opportunity as well (new potential Ambassadors are accepted on a rolling basis.)
 - FCDOT will host 7 Bike to Work Day pit stops, adding Centerville and Culmore this year. FCPA agreed to host a pit stop at all RECenters.
 - Fairfax County Government is beginning a strategic planning process with the community to shape the future together.
- o 1-2 attendees from TSB Committee requested to attend BAC meeting March 7, 2019 from 7pm to 8:30pm at the Government Center, conference rooms 9/10/11
- Grant/funding opportunities.
 - o Pedestrian Safety Action Plan – Program through VDOT. Spot improvements on priority corridors. See map:
<http://vdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=ae073e60495948deafc34d08812dfb20>
- Potential renewal of program for 2019. Applications expected to be due November 2019. FCDOT accepting project ideas tentatively through August 2019. Contact Lauren Delmare
 - o Safe Routes to School – Program through VDOT. Projects near Elementary and/or Middle schools which support walking and bicycling to school. Must be supported by school PTA/administration.
- Potential renewal of program for 2019. Applications expected to be due November 2019. FCDOT accepting project ideas tentatively through June 2019. Contact Lauren Delmare
 - o Transportation-Land Use Connections – Program through MWCOG. Applications due April 2019. FCDOT currently developing abstract for tentative bicycle/pedestrian connection project.