

**Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Regular Monthly Meeting – 7 p.m., July 8, 2020

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)

Committee Members Absent: Lee District (seat vacant), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (seat vacant), Andrea Reese (Northern VA Regional Park Authority), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Soledad Portilla (Northern VA Builder’s Industry Associations), Washington Area Bicyclists Association (seat vacant)

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

Others in attendance: Citizens Howard Albers, Janet Walker, Melissa and Steve Simons; Bill Niedringhaus and Karen Jones (Fairfax Trails and Streams)

Call to Order: This remote meeting, the second 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 7:00 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 and June 2020 meeting minutes will need to be approved at a later date.

Chris Wells announced that David Loss is the staff point-of contact for committee support matters. He stated that he would get the membership list from the Clerk of the Board. He will get the committee website up to date with respect to members' names. He provided information on the following topics:

- FCDOT made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee on 30 June, 2020 as a follow-up to the Lusk-Alcorn Board Action. The BOS is very interested and engaged in promoting pedestrian safety
- A contract has been signed with Alta Planning + Design and AECOM to develop the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan. A project kick-off meeting of staff groups will happen shortly
- One street in Tysons Corner was closed to provide a safe place for pedestrians to go during the pandemic. It appears to be successful. Staff is looking into another closure in Centreville (Machen Road and Centrewood Drive) as a pilot program
- There will be a virtual meeting on July 27 at 7 p.m. to discuss potential improvement in the Route 50 corridor under the VDOT "STARS" program

The committee then discussed outreach to various communities under the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan. Staff stated that information will be provided in nine major languages.

Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon) discussed pedestrian safety in the Route 1 corridor which has seen fatalities this year. Various suggestions were made to address this issue, such as a follow-up letter to the BOS, a lower speed limit, more signalized intersections with high-visibility crosswalks, increased enforcement, etc. Chris Wells stated that he would be meeting with Dep. County Executive Rachel Flynn to discuss these and other pedestrian/bike safety issues.

Bill Niedringhaus and Karen Jones (Fairfax Trails and Streams) briefed the committee on the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail within Fairfax County with emphasis on closing a gap along Georgetown Pike that would connect 26 miles of trails to the east with 14 miles of trails to the west. Part of the connection is within NPS property and it is a low priority in relation to other bigger projects. Bottom line: there is no funding.

Bob Cosgriff (Braddock) submitted the idea (captured in a point paper) of creating an "Equity Seat" on the committee to affirm our commitment to County equity policies. The incumbent would be able to link with County's Chief Equity Officer and other bodies dealing with equity issues and serve as a conduit for information to the committee. Mark Tipton (Federation of Citizens Associations) moved that the committee approve the recommendation and that the chair send a letter to Chairman McKay forwarding the point paper. The motion was seconded and approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.