

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting – 7PM, May 12, 2021

Location: Video Conference Online via Webex

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

Note Taker: Stiven Foster

Committee Members in Attendance:

Representative At-Large and Chair Ken Comer, Vice-Chair Robert Cosgriff (Braddock), Stiven Foster (Providence), James Albright (Mason), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Dyami Pipkin (Lee), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Shawn Newman (Fairfax County Alliance for Better Bicycling), Deborah Cohen (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Soledad Portilla (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association)

Members Arriving Late: Jim Klein (Mount Vernon)

Committee Members Absent: Alexander Rough (Hunter Mill), Wade H.B. Smith (Dranesville), Karen Ampeh (Sully), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations), Andrea Reese (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority),

Others in Attendance: Tom Biesiadny, Director of Fairfax Co. Dept of Transportation, Nicole Wynands, FCDOT Bicycle Program Manager, Jennifer Baldwin, ActiveFairfax Consultant, Davis Loss, FCDOT, Kenan Cehic, Mason District resident, Yvette White, member of the public

Call to Order & VFOIA recitals: The meeting was called to order by the Chair Ken Comer at 7:02 in which he recited the Virginia Freedom of Information Act information to conduct the meeting virtually. This is the seventh remote meeting using Cisco Webex video conferencing. Mr. Comer then read the recitals required under Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, the uncodified Fairfax County Board of Supervisors emergency ordinance adopted on April 14, 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.

Discussion Topics

ActiveFairfax Plan Update (Jennifer Baldwin, Alta Planning + Design):

Active Transportation Plan – Alta Planning Jennifer Baldwin

The update covered:

- Schedule
- Public engagement efforts

- Draft Systematic Safety
 - Goes to Board Trans Committee 5/25
 - Present to TSB in June
 - Board of Supervisors in September
- Draft Vision & Goals
 - Close to the end of phase 1 – vision and goals

In discussion, James Albright and others on the committee had questions about the equity outreach for the ActiveFairfax effort, including:

- How many responses are non-English? Not many (50)
- What has been successful? Facebook ads, posters at public centers
- How will the input be considered?
- Who will make judgements of decisions? Staff will make recommendations that will go to the board.
- Were the public meetings sparsely attended? Some were but the focused attention was valuable.
- Are we missing segments?
- How are comments being captured? Recorded comments are transcribed. All non-English responses will be translated and included.

Staff noted that organization of comments, prioritization will occur in the next phase.

Dyami Pipkin and several other committee members expressed concerns about the engagement from communities of color and noted:

- Demographic groups are not monolithic
- The equity goal and objectives may not go far enough or provide enough specifics

Jennifer Baldwin (Alta) noted that they are using data driven analyses.

Ken Comer spoke about the important of networks to provide effective efficient connectiveness. He hopes this plan will be pushing Fairfax in that direction. He recommended looking at metrics that will move us closer to that vision of networks.

Shawn Newman asked if ActiveFairfax leads to the need for land use changes, how would that occur? Jennifer Baldwin (Alta) stated that there are many departments working on this effort, and it is part of the larger comprehensive planning process. Shaw also asked what are the standards and best practices that are being recommended? FCDOT staff stated the plan will develop in stages and at this time the focus is on the Goals. There will be metrics at a later date.

Howard Albers asked if zero deaths a goal of the Systematic Safety plan. He wondered if the public understands systematic safety.

“Bike to Work” Day 20th Anniversary, May 21, 2021 (Davis Loss):

This will be the areas 20th Bike to Work Day! The focus this year is less about travel to work, and more about biking for health and taking a break from work. Free T-shirt for the 15,000 that register. The number of pit stops has been scaled back; FCDOT will be at the Government Center and in Chantilly.

Citizen Comment / Question & Answer:

Kenan Cehic, a resident in the Mason district, was in attendance and had a few questions.

- Will density be considered in the Active Fairfax projects?

Nicole Wynands stated that FCDOT is using demand analysis and she provided a brief overview.

New Items (TSB Committee Members)

Bob Cosgriff attended a seminar on systematic racism put on by the Racial Equity Institute. The presentation had an emphasis on water with a focus on the issues of inequities in multiple aspects, including:

- Criminal justice
- Business
- Education
- Wealth
- Health

He was impressed by their messages to:

- Change the narrative
- Maintain hope

Staff noted that National Trails Day June 5th and there will be a celebration at Smokewood Park Bridge.

Beth Iannetta is offering to meet with district representatives and come to them to discuss FCPA opportunities.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.