

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting – 7:00pm, February 13

Location:

Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035,
Conference Room 3

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), Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon), Stiven Foster (Providence), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Coalition of Citizens Associations), Soledad Portillo (NVBA), Tom McFarland (FCPA), Beth Iannetta (FCPA), Shawn Newman (FABB)

Committee Members Absent: Ken Comer (At-large, Chair), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Jeff Anderson (Hunter Mill), James Albright (Mason), Dan Iglhaut (NVRPA), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Robert Michie (Lee), WABA (seat vacant), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (seat vacant)

Others in Attendance: Chris Wells (FCDOT), Sally Smallwood (FCPS), Jesse Herman (Transportation Aide to Supervisor Hudgens/Hunter Mill District), Sheila Danheiser (Co-Chair, Gilbertson Bridge Coalition), Karen Jones (Fairfax Trails and Streams)

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Robert Cosgriff at 7:06 p.m. New members Shawn Newman (FABB) and Beth Iannetta (Trails, FCPA) were introduced.

Agenda and Discussion Topics

Approval of the Minutes:

Karen Ampeh (Sully) noted that the minutes of the December, 2018 meeting that were approved at the January, 2019 meeting were not the final version that she submitted.

The minutes of the January, 2019 meeting did not include a list of those attending/not attending.

Accordingly, the December, 2018 and January, 2019 minutes will be approved at the March, 2019 meeting once all the administrative details in the two sets of minutes are corrected

Staff Report:

The staff report (incorporated by reference as Attachment A) was provided as a read-ahead. Members raised the following questions about specific items:

- Repaving/restriping: Wade Smith (Dranesville) asked whether all repaving was for bike lane restriping. Chris Wells said it is not; only roads proposed by FCDOT will be restriped for bike lanes. Chris also provided an overview of the community meeting process for this annual repaving process. Stiven Foster (Providence) asked whether the TSB could assist FCDOT in out-year

planning for candidate roads as part of its charter. This raised the issue of whether the TSB wished to be a “working committee” or an “advisory committee.” This matter will be discussed further by the committee internally and with FCDOT.

- Bikeshare Expansion: Robert Cosgriff (Braddock) asked what specifically was meant by “south of Vienna Metro” as a location of future Bikeshare expansion. Chris said that it included areas of Providence District. Additionally, there are discussions with the City of Fairfax and GMU to discuss the feasibility of extending this service from the Vienna Metro to the GMU campus via the City of Fairfax.
- 2019 General Assembly Bills: Chris discussed some of the bills involving bike/pedestrian issues working their way through the current General Assembly session, to include such topics as scooters, cross-walks, cell-phone use, and sidewalk construction. These bills are at various stages in the process as the session nears its close
- Fairfax County Strategic Planning: Chris discussed the Strategic Planning initiative now underway in the County. As part of this, there will be a meeting of Board, Authority, and Commission (BAC) representatives on March 7, 7-8:30 pm at the Government Center. Each BAC should send one or two representatives to this meeting. Stiven Foster (Providence) and Robert Cosgriff volunteered to attend to represent the TSB Committee.

Unfinished Business:

- Huntley Meadows Trail Deletion: The BOS approved the out-of-turn Plan Amendment to delete two proposed trails through Huntley Meadows Park, but stipulated that studies should be made for alternative east-west trails in that area.
- Gabrielson Bridge replacement: Tom McFarland (FCPA) reported that he has received from the consultant the preliminary design concept and estimate for developing a full design. Coordination is underway with Supervisor Smith (Sully) to identify funding for the full design. Funding for eventual construction (amount TBD) must also be found. The County will meet on 14 February with a landowner to discuss an easement. Once additional details regarding the design, costs, and easement matters are worked out, there will be a public meeting to provide an update on this project.

Other Business:

- Wade Smith (Dranesville) asked about how FCDOT was involved in the planned widening of the HOT lanes north of the Dulles Access Road to the American Legion Bridge and plans under discussion for replacement/widening of that bridge. This point was raised in the context of ensuring that a multi-use pathway is included in these plans. This would allow connection into Maryland to the C&O Canal, Bethesda, etc., as well as to the Potomac Heritage Trail in Virginia. Chris Wells replied that the Comprehensive Plan calls for a pathway along the I-495 right-of-way but that details have not been worked out since VDOT is still very early in the process of developing the solicitation.
- Committee Web Site – Stiven Foster (Providence) again raised the issue of the “Biking and Biking Trails through the Parks” page on FCPA website. The wording discourages biking in parks. He requested that FCPA amend the language to encourage bike usage in parks on trails designed for such usage.
- Sally Smallwood (FCPS) announced that she is putting together a grant proposal to provide bikes to elementary schools, creation of “traffic gardens” for bike safety instruction (Hollin Meadows ES is the pilot school and Rocky Run ES is another candidate), and to support the “bike to school”

initiative. The grants will be announced in May of this year. She also said that FCPS is going to adopt the FCPA calendar idea “Healthy Strides” for use in the schools.

- Jesse Herman (Supervisor Hudgen’s office) discussed plans for replacing a one-lane bridge on Hunter Mill Road over Colvin Run adjacent to Lake Fairfax Park. Chris Wells will coordinate with FCPA (Tom McFarland/Beth Iannetta), Supervisor Hudgins’ office, and Jeff Anderson (Hunter Mill rep); a meeting has been scheduled for 27 February to discuss plans.
- Wade Smith (Dranesville) raised the issue of the proposed new bridge over Colvin Run at Carpers Mill Way/Colvin Mill Park as part of the Route 7 widening project. Tom McFarland recapitulated the discussions among VDOT, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands concerns), and FCPA on this issue. The plan is to route the CCT under this bridge on a concrete pathway. This will result in a safer path in traversing Route 7 on the CCT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 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.