

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Location: Remote Meeting via Cisco Webex Video Conferencing
Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Committee Members in Attendance: Ken Comer (At-Large) (Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), James Albright (Mason), Stiven Foster (Providence), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Dyami Pipkin (Lee), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Debby Cohen (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Andrea Reese (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders Association), Mark Tipton (Fairfax Council of Community Associations)

Committee Members Absent: Karen Ampeh (Sully District0)

Staff in Attendance: Chris Wells, Nicole Wynands, David Loss, Tonya McCleary

Others in attendance: Tom McFarland (FCPA), Laura Overcamp (attending for a class)

Call to Order: This remote meeting, the sixth 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. This is the first 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 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, July August, September, and October 2020 meeting minutes will need to be approved at a later date.

New member Debby Cohen (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board) was introduced. There are now no vacant seats.

Nicole Wynands gave a video presentation on the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan ("the Plan"). The Plan will become part of the County's Comprehensive Plan and will combine all other pedestrian/bicycle documents into a single document. A Pedestrian Safety Plan will be part of it. The Plan will be developed in two phases. Work began on July 20, 2020 and draft portions are in various stages of completion. Invitations for members of the Equity Advisory and Youth Advisory Committees have been sent out via various means. These stakeholder groups should begin meeting in December, 2020. "Branding" is under development. A Plan and Policy "audit" is being conducted by the consultant, along with a current conditions assessment. Plans for community engagement and a community survey are under development. The Plan website has been launched, but at this point provides only information; it is not yet interactive.

Based on Nicole's presentation, a number of committee members posed questions or offered observations/recommendations on various items. In terms of Plan development "governance," Nicole stated that there is a "core team" comprising 20 County departments or agencies. Fairfax County representatives will also meet with counterparts in neighboring jurisdictions (Fairfax City and Alexandria).

Chris Wells (FCDOT) provided some background on the VDOT STARS (Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions) which is predicated on the U.S. Department of Transportation's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program whereby the Federal Government provides funding to states. STARS at this time is a study only, with no funding for any projects in the near-term. VDOT is looking at possible pilot programs. Within Fairfax County, another source of funding is the Transportation Priority Plan (TPP) which gets funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Agency (NVTA). However, some NVTA funding was diverted to pay into the Metro system; some funding has been restored. Additionally, COVID-related losses in state revenue will probably mean further cuts in TPP funding, thus delaying some projects. A discussion concerning the Route 50 corridor ensued, including a bike/ped crossing and other improvements to provide better service for pedestrians and cyclists. Again, the big issue is funding.

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