

**Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2021 at 7 p.m.**

**Location:** Remote Meeting via Cisco Webex Video Teleconferencing

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

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Wade H.B. Smith (Dranesville), Dyami Pipkin (Lee), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Stiven Foster (Providence), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Deborah Cohen (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Mark Tipton (Fairfax Council of Community Associations), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders Association), Andrea Reese (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association)

**Committee Members Absent:** Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), James Albright (Mason)

**Others in attendance:** David Loss (FCDOT), Chris Wells (FCDOT)

**Call to Order:** This remote meeting, the eleventh 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 sixth 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.

**Discussion Topics:**

- **Active Fairfax Plan Discussion:** Davis Loss, FCDOT, gave an update on the project since Ms. Wynands was not able to attend this month. Information shared included the upcoming public

meetings with community members dates and times, the outreach poll which includes demographic information, the draft vision, goals and objectives document is currently scheduled for BOS endorsement in June 2021, and FCDOT recommends the TSB committee members join the outreach meetings if possible. Mr. Newman commented that the one he attended was sparsely attended and he inquired if the others had low attendance levels. Mr. Wells commented that staff had assumed it would be a challenging environment to hold public input meetings virtually. He stated it wouldn't be the only opportunity to engage the public. Mr. Pipkin commented the meetings and polls need a broader outreach based on the demographics shown so far. Mr. Albers asked for clarification on what was being presented to the Board of Supervisors and staff answered the Vision, Goals and Objectives for the project as well as the proposed safety plan. The tentative schedule to present the information is to the BOS Transportation Committee in May and the full BOS meeting in June. Ms. Iannetta inquired about the status of funding for Phase 2. FCDOT expects to submit for late summer carryover budget. Staff also stated the comment period may be extended till May 15<sup>th</sup> for public input on the survey and mapping tools that are on the project website.

- **Trails Issue:** (Jim Klein) – Mr. Klein wanted to discuss natural surface trail as a carryover from the issues brought up last month's meeting by Mr. Sam Aparicio. He displayed a map of natural areas within the county, a map of the major regional trails and the Capital Trails Network map. He focused in on the Mount Vernon/Route 1 areas in terms of existing trails within a ¼ mile buffer of the natural areas/parks. Our county has a lot of great places but the main access to them is by car. In his opinion the funding is steered toward the large-scale projects and not focusing in on the smaller sections of trail connections. There is a lack of an integrated system and how can the various private and public facilities be knitted together. Discussion on the removal of trails within Huntley Meadows ensued including the actions taken by the BOS and the directive to staff to propose alternatives around and adjacent to the park boundary as part of the ActiveFairfax project. Mr. Klein suggested one good goal to work on would be connected natural surface trail network that would compete with funding for paved trails. It seems master plans get filled up with playgrounds and ballfields and allow for natural walking areas. He would also want to strengthen the coordination among the various agencies that control the open space areas. Ms. Iannetta inquired if his frustration was from a lack of planning or the challenges implementing the plans. An example given was a trail easement dedication from the 1970's that staff didn't know about or wasn't depicted on any current mapping tools used by staff, and it has sat there unused and unknown about even though it was dedicated as part of the original Trails Plan. It's lack of information that prevents staff from implementing the trail recommendations as envisioned. Mr. Albers highlighted the lack funding for these facilities for Fairfax County in comparison to other jurisdictions.

**Staff Report:** (Chris Wells, FCDOT)

- VDOT repaving meetings have recently wrapped up. Road diets and stripping plans can be found on the FCDOT website. Staff focuses on wide roads unlike Fort Hunt Road, which wouldn't normally be considered. VDOT was responsive to the suggestion and changes are being considered.

- I-66 Trail near Vienna Metro – He discussed the interim and ultimate design as well as the timeline for the construction of trails that will continue after the roadway work has been completed.
- I-495 NEXT – The BOS has endorsed the project which included a trail component from Lewinsville Road to Live Oak Drive with plans to cross over the American Legion Bridge in the future. Provided information on the I-270 Maryland project. The trail will stop at Lewinsville Road and staff is working on ways to connect the trail to Tysons.
- Smart Cities Initiatives – FCDOT has been involved with this effort in the past with the autonomous shuttle on public street, the first in the United States. Recent activities include soliciting technology pitches that would analyze pedestrian/bicycle safety or other proposals. Six finalists have been selected to pitch their ideas.
- George Mason University held a conference on “Accelerating Active Transportation in Northern Virginia”. There were a variety of topics including post-pandemic transit use, the business case for trails, ecotourism revenue related to trails, equity trail issues, and more were discussed.
- I-66 Trail update – FCDOT staff reviewed the status of the projects, described the locations and the design features planned.

**Citizen Comment / Question & Answer Period:** None

**Adjournment:** Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Mr. Klein, was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.