

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

**Regular Monthly Meeting – 7 p.m., June 10, 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), Karl Liebert (Springfield), James Albright (Mason), Stiven Foster (Providence), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon) Wade H. B. Smith (Dranesville), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Andrea Reese (Northern VA Regional Park Authority), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations),

**Committee Members Absent:** Karen Ampheh (Sully), Katie McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Beth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Soledad Portilla (Northern VA Builder's Industry Associations), Lee District (seat vacant), Hunter Mill District (seat vacant), Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (seat vacant), Washington Area Bicyclists Association (seat vacant),

**Staff in Attendance:** Chris Wells, David Loss

**Others in attendance:** no other attendees

**Call to Order:** This remote meeting, the first 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. March, 2020, meeting minutes were not introduced for approval and will be approved at a subsequent meeting.

## **Agenda and Discussion Topics:**

There was one agenda item: pedestrian safety. The committee discussed the following items: reduce speed limits, increase number of high-visibility crosswalks, develop a maintenance plan for crosswalks, program pedestrian signals, designate pedestrian safety corridors. An overall approach was developed, consisting of:

- developing individual supervisor support and BOS action (perhaps via the Transportation Committee, then the full Board) to make this a priority
- establish policies via the Comprehensive Plan and the emerging ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan
- ensure funding for safety enhancements that fall under County authority
- work with the Northern Virginia General Assembly delegation to develop legislation in to promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety

Chris Wells stated that FCDOT is scheduled to brief the Transportation Board on 30 June and speed limits will be discussed (in connection with the two major Route 1 corridor projects)

The TSB Committee had approved a letter to the Chairman of the BOS at the March, 2020 meeting. This was submitted informally to Supervisor Storck (Mt. Vernon), copy to Chairman McKay by Jim Klein (Mt. Vernon committee representative) in March. However, it was never formally transmitted by the TSB committee chairman to Chairman McKay before the coronavirus shutdown. The committee will modify this as-of-yet-unsent letter based on the discussion outlined above and submit it after further discussion and approval in July or August.

## **Staff Report:**

Chris Wells provided a brief staff report covering:

- I-66 OTB trail progress (some trails will be off-corridor through FCPA land or other existing roadways, e.g., Random Hills/Post Forest)
- I-495 NEXT (trying to ensure two bridges over the Beltway will have sidewalks on both sides; trail paralleling I-495 design will tie in with Maryland plans for Beltway/I-270 widening)
- McLean Comprehensive Plan Effort—will include more bike infrastructure
- West Falls Church (near present UVA/VT campus)—plans for a new Falls Church high school/middle school and other development near the Metro stop
- Route 50/Graham Road—VDH grant on “Walkability” has kicked off a study of the old Loehmann’s Plaza area for bike/ped upgrades
- Temporary road closures due to pandemic to encourage more outdoor exercise while allowing for social distancing. There were several candidate locations studied; Tysons Blvd. was chosen for the pilot study. Jersey barriers installed for ½ mile. This pilot program seems to be working well.

There are several committee vacancies: Hunter Mill District, Lee District, Fairfax Area Disability Services Board, and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA). Efforts are underway to find candidates for these vacancies. Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks) has a newly confirmed representative, Andrea Reese.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.