



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

## Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee (TSB)

November 8, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Room 8, Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Pkwy

Fairfax, VA 22035

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

Howard Albers, Secretary

### Members Present:

Ken Comer (At Large/Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/Vice-Chair), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Jim Corcoran (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association), Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Builder's Industry Association) James Albright (Mason District), Erin Partlin (Franconia District), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), and Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), and Tyler Schiefelbein (Springfield).

### Members Absent:

Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), and Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society).

**Others in Attendance:** Nicole Wynands (FCDOT) and Hannah Cacner (FCDOT).

**Call to Order:** Ken Comer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 11, 2023, committee meeting was previously e-mailed to members for their review. Since there were no additions or corrections to be made, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was approved.

### Presentations:

Hannah Cacner, an Active Transportation Planner from FCDOT presented information on an ongoing Turn Calming study. The study was the result of recommendations included in a [March 1, 2023, Trails Sidewalks, and Bikeway Committee letter](#) to the Board of Supervisors.

Hannah Cacner discussed various quick build intersection design treatments such as hard rubber pedestrian interval timing, flex posts, truck pillows, slow turn wedges and left turn nose extensions. FCDOT met with VDOT staff who asked that additional information be researched. The turn calming treatments have not been previously used by VDOT.

The next step of the study is for FCDOT to select 3 or 4 different corridors (with each corridor having 5 or 6 intersections) as study locations.

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Once the locations and funding needs are identified FCDOT will present them to the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee for consideration. FCDOT hopes the projects can be installed using a “no plan plan”, a VDOT pre-approved process for recurring improvements in the VDOT right of way.

A question was asked if VDOT Environmental Justice policies will be considered in the selection of corridors to be studied. Nicole commented that all VDOT activities are based on safety decisions based on the judgment of Professional Engineers. It is unlikely that social and economic effects on minority populations and low-income populations would factor into VDOT’s turn calming decisions.

James Albright briefed the committee on the history of the Annandale Greenway. The 4.5-mile greenway will give Annandale a greater community identity by connecting 6 Fairfax County Parks. The Greenway will use existing park trails and VDOT roads and sidewalks. In September 2023, the Board of Supervisors endorsed the recommended sign plan for the greenway. Committee members suggested that the western terminus of the greenway be extended to include connections with the Cross County trail and a future trail on the nearby power line easement. James explained those were good suggestions to explore in the future. The next steps are having greenway signs installed on park trails, obtaining VDOT sign permits, and raising funds for three information kiosks.

**Discussions:**

Bob Cosgriff led a discussion on setting priorities for the TSB Committee. By Friday, December 1, 2023, Bob asked that committee members e-mail him with the area or areas that they were interested in working on. As an alternative, committee members could report their areas of interest at the December 2023 committee meeting. Based on the e-mail responses, 2 person work teams may be formed for each priority areas. An extended TSB public meeting may be needed in the future to finalize the committee goals.

Jim Klein reported that the October 21, 2023, Tour de Mount Vernon was a huge success. The beautiful weather and the closed Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway made the event memorable.

**Staff Report:** Nicole Wynands reported the Bike Share Program information was recently distributed to committee members. More bike share stations in the Providence, Springfield and Franconia Districts will be installed once VDOT permits are received.

On December 5, 2023, the Board of Supervisors are scheduled to approve the list of bicycle and pedestrian safety improvement projects.

The Council of Governments recently approved a Transit in Reach Grant. The grant will provide funding to study converting a travel lane on Prosperity Avenue from Gallows Road to the entrance of the METRO parking garage to protected bike lanes.

The Safe Streets for All grant funding awards for Fairfax County are still being reviewed.

Nicole reported that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) Annual Trails Summit was well attended. and that excellent information was presented. She suggested to NOVC that a bigger venue and more time be allowed for the next summit. Nicole was asked, and she agreed,

to distribute the published summit report to all committee members. Nicole commented that she found the presentation on the WABA Trail Ranger Program at the summit to be of great interest. The District of Columbia (DC) Department of Transportation contracts with WABA to conduct trail maintenance and trail programming. WABA, in turn, hires 8 employees earning about \$ 50,000 per year to work as trail rangers. Nicole reported that WABA would not be expanding the ranger program into Fairfax County, but the model has many good features that could be useful in Fairfax County.

**Public Comments: None**

**Upcoming Presentations:** The following topics were suggested for the next TSB committee meeting:

- FCPA Park Trail Signage Update (Jim Corcoran)
- Process for nominating unfunded bike ped improvements in future county bond referenda.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Minutes were approved by the TSB Committee on **December 13, 2023**.