

Special Joint Meeting of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 7-9 PM

Courthouse Plaza, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms

2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Minutes (approved unanimously and without change, June 13, 2018)

*BAC members and staff:* Gillian Burgess, Chair; Eric Goodman (also PAC member); William Fuchs; Dwight Hlustick; Elizabeth Kiker; Steve Offutt; Cynthia Palmer; Kelly Cornell, staff

*PAC members and staff:* Pamela Van Hine, Chair; Eric Goldstein, Vice Chair; John Armstrong; Eric Goodman (also BAC member); Tom Korn; Christine Ng; Chris Yarie; Ritch Viola, staff

*Other transportation staff:* Dennis Leach, Shelley Peart, William Roberts, Christine Sherman, Alli Henry; also Kevin Stalica, Parks & Recreation; Erin Potter, BikeArlington; Maddie Stein, WalkArlington

*Other attendees:* Ian Blackwell, Leann Sinpatanasakul, Joe Chestnut, Steve Wartick, Susan Fuchs

The meeting was called to order by the Chairs at 7:02 PM.

**Welcome, introductions, new business:**

Both Chairs welcomed everyone to the joint meeting and briefly spoke about how holding a joint meeting gives the BAC and PAC committee members the opportunity to discuss issues of joint interest and work together on solutions. Meeting attendees then introduced themselves. There was no new business.

**Transportation Projects:**

The Chairs had proposed holding a joint meeting to discuss specific transportation projects, in part to talk about how bike plans impact pedestrian access and vice versa. Rather than discussing specific projects, staff focused on developmental design phases for transportation projects and when staff thought it was most appropriate for the Committees to review projects, especially with the new County Engage Arlington program.

R. Viola gave a brief overview of the Capital Improvement Program and noted that most transportation projects fall under either Complete Streets or transit facilities. He distributed and explained his Preparation of a Capital Project for Construction chart, which broke projects into developmental stages: concept design, preliminary design, advanced design, and final design. He then compared this chart to an April 10, 2018 County bike-ped project status list that put each project into one of the categories, though Concept and 30% were combined into one category. Transportation staff suggested that the Committees should focus comments on projects in the first group (Concept to 30%) because projects beyond that are much closer to final design and therefore more difficult to change.

S. Peart confirmed that DOT was implementing the new Engage Arlington process on transportation projects now. The PAC Chair encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Core of Rosslyn Transportation Study on April 17, and several attendees commented on the value of the recent N. Veitch Street design engagement. More transportation public engagements are planned, according to A. Henry.

D. Leach encouraged the Committees to group projects for discussion by locality, such as Crystal City/Pentagon City. These grouped projects often have the same project manager and the projects are often related to each other. The BAC Chair requested that several additional projects be added to this list, and staff said they would include them. After several procedural questions from BAC and PAC

members, staff agreed that the BAC/PAC could bring some projects to the BAC/PAC for consultation at future joint meetings.

### **Custis Trail Improvements between Calvert and Adams/McCoy Park (MOT plans)**

K. Stalica, Department of Parks & Recreation, briefly reviewed the Custis Trail Improvement project which is replacing major sections of the trail. As trail sections are closed while being replaced, the project requires a major MOT plan so that cyclists and pedestrians can safely still move through the area. He then gave the committees a brief update on MOT plans for the Custis Trail Improvements, noting that cyclists and pedestrians would be on different routes.

### **Vision Zero Brainstorming:**

*Distributed background resources:* The PAC Chair included a link to her [Vision Zero \(VZ\) resources list](#) in the draft agenda for the meeting, so that attendees could read about Vision Zero prior to the meeting. R. Viola provided paper copies of this document and several key Vision Zero documents.

The PAC Chair addressed her growing support for Vision Zero after studying the 2017 bike-ped crash report released by Lt Murphy at the March BAC and PAC meetings. The report lists two pedestrian deaths last year, six in the past five years, and that 7% of pedestrians in crashes in 2017 had severe injuries. In 2017, slightly more than half of all pedestrians in crashes were at a signalized intersection and crossing with a pedestrian light. Finally, she stressed that although the County has so many wonderful programs, staff, and committees that help keep us safe, we need a huge cultural shift - and some engineering changes - to get to zero severe injuries and fatalities with crashes.

The BAC Chair then talked about how she's supported Vision Zero for a long time. She spoke about attending the recent Vision Zero summit in DC, where no one from Arlington was speaking and few County staff were attending. She stressed that we need a seat at the table to become transportation leaders again.

The chairs' comments were followed by a spirited discussion on the pros and cons of Vision Zero, including the need for a buy-in from everyone - all departments, all committees, and all communities - to make Vision Zero work. Otherwise it's just a slogan, and those programs without a complete buy-in are not succeeding, according to D. Leach. He encouraged us to review the data and reports from individual Vision Zero communities to see if they are actually succeeding. E. Goldstein asked what being a Vision Zero community got us. Several people expressed concerns about the possible costs, and D. Leach talked about how tight the budget is for 2019 - and probably beyond - and that people may need to give up some projects to implement Vision Zero and reprioritize work. He also recommended that part of our background research should be to identify cost studies of all kinds for Vision Zero projects. Finally, he recommended that if the Committees were serious about supporting Vision Zero, we should send a letter to the County Manager encouraging exploring making the County a Vision Zero community. The consensus of the two Committees was to prepare a joint letter.

### **Additional PAC Official Business**

After the discussion on VZ, the joint meeting broke into two separate groups to handle their committee-specific business. The PAC voted on two items during its business meeting:

- C. Ng moved to recommend that Eric Goodman be appointed as the PAC representative on the Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC). This was seconded, then unanimously approved by present PAC members.

- C. Yarie moved to approve a brief letter to the County Manager reinforcing our strong support for the Neighborhood Complete Streets Program. This motion was also seconded and unanimously approved, and E. Goldstein and E. Goodman are completing the draft letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM. The next PAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 PM in Courthouse Plaza, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms.