

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting
Wednesday, June 13, 2018 7-9 PM
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms
Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Minutes (approved unanimously without change July 11, 2018)

Present: Pamela Van Hine, Chair; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; Eric Goodman; Tom Korn; Chris Yarie; Ritch Viola, staff; Katy Lang, WALKARlington

Guests: Ian Blackwell, Joshua Handler, Rob Mandle, Lt Daniel Murphy, Rafael Sampao, Mark Schnauffer, Leeann Sinpatanasakul

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M.

Welcome and News Items: The Chair welcomed PAC members and guests, and the Committee welcomed Katy Lang, the new WALKARlington program manager. After introductions, the Chair noted opportunities to provide comments on several projects, including the County [Big Idea](#) roundtables, Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) approved projects, plans for [new Crystal City VRE station](#), and the Crystal City BID strategic planning process with public comments through the [Future Cities Project](#) on Neighborhood.

Public Comments: Joshua Handler, Friends of Upton Hill, NOVA Regional Park Plans:

J. Handler, representing [Friends of Upton Hill](#), shared their concerns about NOVA's plans to add an access road and a new parking lot to the [Upton Hill Regional Park](#). They believe that the park plans will adversely impact the watersheds of Four Mile Run and the Chesapeake, cause a significant loss of mature trees, and increase conflict between drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians at the new entrance to the park along Wilson. The PAC gave him a few suggestions and thanked him for his presentation.

Lt Daniel Murphy, Special Operations Section (SOS), Arlington County Police Department, Strategic Restructuring and Update on Bike-Ped Crash Data:

Lt Murphy distributed the Police Department's [fact sheet](#) on Strategic Restructuring and reviewed the reasons for the restructuring and what it would mean to the community. Fewer traffic enforcement details will be conducted, although SOS officers will still participate in pedestrian stings, the Street Smart Campaign, the Rosslyn Pedestrian Safety Initiative (RPSI), and using LIDAR @ TARP locations. Additional information on the impact of restructuring is found [here](#). Lt Murphy also handed out a summary of 2018 bike-ped crash data available so far and noted a 5% increase in pedestrians being found at fault (for "interfering with traffic"). He will continue to support bike-ped safety and provide quarterly updates to the PAC on bike-ped crashes.

Mark Schnauffer, Capital Projects Manager, Department of Transportation, Proposed Closure of Pedestrian Tunnel at 23rd Street South under Route One and Other Transportation Projects in Crystal City of Pedestrian Interest:

M. Schnauffer explained how the pedestrian tunnel under Route One at 23rd Street will need to be closed in a couple years for Phase II of the [23rd Street South Realignment](#) project because 23rd Street will be shifted south between Clark/Bell and Crystal Drive. Restaurant owners on 23rd are asking that the tunnel

be closed sooner because of the condition of the tunnel and the population of homeless persons that use it. Mark then explained the three options for the tunnel: 1) No change - continue existing level of monthly maintenance (Cost up to \$20K annually); 2) Close tunnel with secure doors/gates - structure will be removed with 23rd Street Phase II project (Cost - approximately \$85K one-time); or 3) Increase maintenance/security level (Additional costs up to \$175K annually). During discussion, the Chair, who lives in the general neighborhood and does use the tunnel sometimes, described almost being hit 3 times while attempting to cross Route One twice on the north side. She avoids the intersection because she finds it too dangerous and noted that pedestrians have been hit here. Because of time constraints, the Committee could not reach consensus or vote on a recommendation. Instead, the Chair proposed that she walk the intersection with the speaker next week to discuss safety issues and how the intersection could be improved for safe crossings for pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

The speaker then briefly summarized several other current transportation projects in Crystal City and their schedules: [South Clark-Bell Street Demolition](#) (a tear down of an unused and unnecessary road that will open up Crystal City, Summer 2019), [15th Street South Realignment](#) (finished street will have bike lanes; being planned and implemented with Parks (2019-2020), and the [DCA South Pedestrian Access Improvements](#) (County can create a much wider sidewalk by narrowing excess width in travel lanes).

Ritch Viola, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, Draft CIP Projects of Pedestrian Interest, including WALKArlington:

R. Viola walked the PAC through his excellent annotated summary of the proposed CIP, which began with an overview of the entire CIP, information on funding, summary of transportation programs, and summary of Complete Streets, which includes BIKEArlington and WALKArlington programs. The final pages of his summary addressed WALKArlington specifically, including proposed 10-year funding and brief information on the four projects funded through WALKArlington: Rosslyn-Ballston ADA Improvements, ADA outside of corridors, County-wide improvements, and the High Priority Crossing Technology Program. He noted that keeping what we have in good repair and following through on projects already started or with firm commitments are key themes throughout the proposed CIP. Finally, he reviewed the CIP schedule and encouraged PAC members to attend remaining sessions and participate in the public speaking session. The Chair also encouraged PAC members and other attendees to participate. CIP information and schedules are [here](#).

PAC Business:

- Election of Officers for 2018-2019: Motions were made and seconded to nominate Eric Goldstein as the incoming Chair of the PAC, to nominate Chris Yarie as the incoming Vice Chair of the PAC, and to nominate Pamela Van Hine as the incoming Recording Secretary. All positions were unanimously approved without further discussion. New officers and new PAC members Leeann Sinpatanasakul and Ian Blackwell will begin their duties September 1.
- July 11 PAC Meeting: The Chair informed the PAC that they were invited to participate in a meeting about Lee Highway bike and pedestrian challenges on July 11, the PAC usual meeting date. The Lee Highway meeting is being coordinated by the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), VDOT staff, and the Lee Highway Alliance (LHA) in the LHA office. A motion was made and seconded to attend the LHA meeting rather than hold a separate meeting without them. The PAC voted to attend the LHA meeting after adding a caveat by E. Goodman to include a half hour for PAC business at the end of the meeting.

- DAC-PAC Disability Walk: The Chair noted that the proposed DAC-PAC disability walk will probably be held in September on a Saturday (Sunday rain date) and asked PAC members to let her know their preferences and availability for these dates: September 8/9, September 22/23, and September 28/29.
- Approval of March and April minutes: Motions were made and seconded to approve the draft March and April PAC minutes. The March minutes were approved with changes; the April minutes were approved without change.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be a special joint meeting with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), VDOT staff, and the [Lee Highway Alliance](#) (LHA) at the LHA office, Russell Building, 4620 Lee Highway #208.