

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2018
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms
Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Minutes (approved as submitted November 14, 2018)

Present: Eric Goldstein, Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Ian Blackwell; Jim Feaster; Eric Goodman; Leeann Sinpatanaskul; Andrea Walker; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Katy Lang, WalkArlington

Guests: Luis Araya, Steve Bridgett, Collier Cook

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. and welcomed members, staff, and guests.

Public Comments: Collier Cook, President, Ballston-Virginia Square Civic Association

C. Cook noted that the civic association appreciates receiving notices of upcoming MOTs which are shared with their members. However, he expressed community concerns about recent construction activities on Wilson Boulevard in Ballston during which both sides of a key sidewalk were closed for an entire Saturday and wondered why both sides of the sidewalk were closed.

**Luis Araya, Bureau Chief, and Steve Bridgett, Development Services Bureau, DES:
Update on Pedestrian Access around Construction Sites**

L. Araya and S. Bridgett alternated speaking about how the Bureau is currently handling pedestrian-related access issues at construction sites and their plans to improve the situation in the next year. They emphasized that in many key County corridors, including Ballston, Rosslyn, and Crystal City, simultaneous major construction projects on megablocks, such as the 4 active site plans in Ballston, are not well-coordinated and create conflict and competing access needs for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. MOTs are constantly changing, and approved MOTs no longer work as the project changes over time. One cause of MOT problems is truck deliveries. The inspectors, traffic engineers, and construction workers try to work together, but staffing is too limited to be effective everywhere simultaneously, although his team meets with the onsite construction supervisor every day. They are paying more attention to the Ballston area projects now because of all of the complex problems there. S. Bridgett distributed a handout of in color photographs showing examples of illegal construction activity that he and his team deal with every day in their site inspections.

The speakers moved on to discuss some specific solutions to construction problems:

- Reporting problems: Citizens are encouraged to use [Report a Problem](#) to report problems or contact S. Bridgett directly (sbridgett@arlingtonva.us).
- [Easier permit applications](#) and better data sharing: The County is working on providing all information necessary for construction permits through [one website](#) in an

easy-to-understand and use format. Digital permit records can be updated easily and eventually can be shared with the general public through County online maps.

- County project contractors: The speakers suggested that a key problem with construction compliance is that many contractors working on County projects do not get the permits they should have nor do they follow MOT/TROW guidelines in their construction projects. Traditionally these workers have not had to be compliant. The speakers feel that this behavior encourages commercial contractors and construction workers to be noncompliant as well. Therefore, a high priority for the Development Services Bureau is to work with County project managers - for transportation, parks, and CPHD County projects - to ensure that proper permits have been pulled and that both the project managers and their construction contractors are following all County guidelines. L. Araya promised to begin this program shortly, starting with high-level planning, then implementing training of managers and how to train their contractors to ensure they are in compliance. An added benefit of this program is that project managers could help ensure compliance on their project sites. He promised to followup with the Committee within three months.

David Patton: PAC Letter of Support for County Application for VDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program Funding

D. Patton quickly reviewed the information provided by Christine Sherman, TE&O Planner, for the VDOT funding. The grant would provide \$60,000 for corridor improvements on North Courthouse Road between 15th Street North and Clarendon Boulevard. The grant would also provide \$280,000 to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) on 7 priority corridors.

The Committee MOVED to approve the Chair preparing a letter of support for this project.

Other Business:

[WalkArlington](#): Katy Lang, WalkArlington Program Manager, gave brief comments on upcoming activities including a [Fall Picnic](#) on October 20th in Quincy Park and [Junior Rangers NPS walks](#). She noted that the Custis Trail in Rosslyn would have overnight narrowing.

Core of Rosslyn: The Chair reviewed the project and presentation and encouraged members to send [comments](#) by the deadline, October 12.

[Approval of September 12, 2018 minutes](#): The Committee MOVED to approve the September 12, 2018 minutes be approved as submitted.

DAC-PAC Disability Walk-and-Talk, September 22, 2019: P. Van Hine distributed her [draft report](#) on the walk-and-talk and noted that 6 of the 9 members/staff present tonight participated in the event. Both DAC members and PAC members participating want to continue to offer the

event and expand it to other groups such as the County Board and on other topics, such as vision impairment and riding transit. She will submit her report to the County Manager, per his request.

Updates by Eric Goodman: Bicycle Element, Neighborhood Complete Streets, ACTC, and Bicycle Advisory Committee

- [Bicycle Element](#): During two meetings in September, they worked to prioritize bike routes to be included in the revision. Focus was on developing north-south and east-west routes and on improving key corridors. A new public comment period will be coming soon.
- [Neighborhood Complete Streets](#): The two pilot projects have been completed. Staffing issues are still impeding completing speeding studies for the remaining proposals from last year.
- [ACTC](#): The bike-ped benefit has been temporarily suspended because of too many applicants for too little funds. They hope that it will be reinstated. He also noted a concern about bus route timing, with some children being on the bus for too long.
- [Bicycle Advisory Committee \(BAC\)](#): He noted that the BAC has signed on to our letter about the ANC (see ANC item). He also noted that Gillian Burgess was reelected as Chair.

Plan Lee Highway Community Forum: The Chair mentioned that he expects to be asked to submit a PAC member name to the newly forming [Plan Lee Highway Community Forum](#). T. Kornis is already committed in another capacity. L. Sinpatanaskul volunteered to serve.

Arlington National Cemetery Southern Expansion Environmental Assessment: The Chair distributed copies of the County letter and the [PAC letter](#) cited within it and attached to the County response. P. Van Hine noted that the County response supports the 5' additional sidewalk ROW where the grade approaches 6%, although the PAC letter asks for 15' width along its entire length, including east of Joyce. The PAC encourages the BAC to emphasize this in their response (see above).

Council on Aging: J. Feaster, incoming Chair of CoA, described the County's support for participating in a [WHO/AARP program, Livable Communities](#). The project has 8 areas and will help everyone, not just the aging population in the County.

Long Bridge Update: L. Sinpatanaskul mentioned that the next public meeting will be in November, although the [Long Bridge Project website](#) has not posted details yet. We are still hoping that the project will include a bike-ped bridge - and will connect to the Mount Vernon Trail and Long Bridge Park.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:51 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, November 14, 7-9 P.M., in the Dogwood & Cherry Rooms. Our featured topic will be POPS.