

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting  
Wednesday, November 14, 2018  
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms  
Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
Minutes, approved without change December 12, 2018

Present: Eric Goldstein, Chair; Chris Yarie, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Ian Blackwell; Jim Feaster; Eric Goodman; Tom Korn; Leeann Sinpatanasakul; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Ritch Viola, Bike-Ped Manager; Christine Sherman, TE&O

Guests: Irena Lazic, Project Manager, DPR; Caroline Haynes, Co-Chair, PSMP Update Advisory Committee, PRC; Gail Ginsburg; Clayton Swope; Jamie Bluth; Steve Sarandos

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests.

**Public Comments:** Jamie Bluth and Steve Sarandos, who live in the Ballston area, feel threatened by e-scooters that they perceive are being recklessly driven on sidewalks in their area. They also believe that neither the County police nor the e-scooter companies are enforcing regulations that prohibit e-scooters being driven on sidewalks during the County pilot project. PAC members and guests continued discussing the role of little vehicles throughout the meeting. Consensus was that we support the pilot project and the potential for little vehicles as part of alternative modes of transportation in the County, that e-scooter rider behavior does not appear to be a problem everywhere in the County, that rider behavior appears to put pedestrians at risk in some congested sections of the County, that enforcement by police and companies is insufficient, and that these comments will be included in the Chair's meeting report to the County Manager.

**Irena Lazic, Project manager, Department of Parks & Recreation:** [Public Spaces Master Plan Update, Final Draft, October 22, 2018](#)

Ms. Lazic presented an overview of the final draft for the PSMP Update. She emphasized the process, timelines, the section on trails, and new items, such as the appendix with definitions, guidelines for dog parks and dog runs, promoting casual use of space, more detailed guidelines on level of service and land acquisition, hiking trails, and design guidelines for privately-owned public spaces. These new design guidelines, along with recommendations for completing and maintaining an inventory of these private spaces and encouraging cooperative planning with CPHD will be important for pedestrian access to and enjoyment of new public spaces. P. Van Hine thanked Ms. Lazic for addressing many of the PAC's concerns about the prior draft in this new draft and requested, again, that snow removal, on trails, paths through parks, and sidewalks around parks, be specifically included in the final draft. Additional PAC comments included requesting using stronger, more directive language in Action Steps, stronger support to ensure that public spaces are truly accessible and welcoming to the public, clarification of level of service guidelines, and ensuring that the PAC is included in all relevant action steps in Appendix V. The BAC and PAC also need to be added to the list of organization abbreviations in Appendix V. Ms. Lazic is planning to take the draft to the commissions shortly and to the County Board in early 2019. Public comments due December 9, can be submitted through this [link](#).

The PAC MOVED to write a letter to Ms. Lazic with compiled key comments on the draft. P. Van Hine offered to prepare a draft response.

**Ritch Viola, Bike-Ped Manager: Master Transportation Plan [Bicycle Element Draft Update](#)**

R. Viola reviewed the most recent draft, November 1, for the MTP Bicycle Element. The County has been working on an update to the current 2008 Bicycle Element because so much has changed recently, including dockless vehicles, better types of bike lanes, pedal-assist bicycles, and an increasing regional population that needs access to alternative modes of transportation. The draft includes a vision statement: "Bicycling is an integral part of Arlington's equitable, multi-modal transportation system and provides safe, reliable, convenient and comfortable travel for persons of all ages and all abilities." The draft emphasizes and prioritizes the primary bicycling corridors and accompanying bikeway network. Other features include performance measures/progress targets, a glossary, an illustrated guide to bicycle infrastructure, design guidance, and summaries of bikeway

facility projects. The network and programming implementation procedures lay out how projects will be prioritized and implemented and by whom. PAC comments during the meeting included: explicitly including pedestrians in the prioritization and implementation process, differentiating between personal mobility assistance devices (e.g. a wheelchair) from little vehicles (e.g. e-scooters), and a caution against saying some trails could be narrower. The Vice Chair encouraged the County to market its bike network more proactively, including to residents, tourists, and visitors. The PAC will continue discussing the Bicycle Element in December and compile and send comments.

#### **Other Business:**

- *Approval of [October 10, 2018 Minutes](#):* The Committee MOVED to approve the October 10, 2018 minutes as submitted.
- *[Vision Zero letter](#):* The Chair will follow-up with the County Manager to encourage the County to develop a Vision Zero program. E. Goodman, the PAC representative on the Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC), noted that Gillian Burgess, BAC Chair, presented about Vision Zero at the ACTC [November 7 meeting](#) and that the ACTC expressed interest and possible support. C. Sherman reported that the County's TE&O staff are increasingly incorporating Vision Zero ideas into their work.
- *[Long Bridge Project](#):* – P. Van Hine encouraged members to attend the upcoming [public information open house](#) for the Preferred Alternative, on Thursday, November 29, from 4PM to 7PM. She reminded members that the PAC sent a strong letter supporting the proposed bike-ped connection from Long Bridge Park to DC via the Long Bridge Project (with a connection to Mt. Vernon Trail) and that the November 29 meeting is an important opportunity for the bike-ped community to advocate for the bike-ped bridge with the Long Bridge Project.
- *[Streetlights management plan](#):* The Chair briefly updated us on the [SMP Briefing](#) to the Advisory Panel at their November 8, 2018 meeting. Although there is no draft report, circulation of the briefing document is encouraged, and feedback is sought by November 30. The Chair will keep us posted on the SMP plans and will emphasize the importance of good street lights for pedestrian safety and activation.
- *[FY 2020 Budget](#):* The Vice Chair, who represented the PAC at the [Town Hall](#) meeting October 17, summarized key points from the meeting: the County Manager projects a \$20-35 million gap in the 2020 FY budget and recommends using the \$16 million surplus to decrease the gap - the first time a surplus would be used this way. Tough choices include cutting services and/or raising real estate taxes. He also noted that any positive budget impact from Amazon's coming to Arlington would not come for more than a year. Please share your feedback on the budget [here](#), and note the general FY 2020 budget page [here](#)
- *[WalkArlington Update](#):* The Chair mentioned the following activities promoted by WalkArlington: The [official opening](#) for the [Washington Boulevard Trail](#) will be Friday, November 30, at 1 P.M. in Towers Park, 801 S. Scott Drive, the southern terminus of this new trail. The Washington Boulevard Trail, a bike and pedestrian trail along Washington Boulevard, will provide a link from the Arlington Boulevard Trail to Columbia Pike. The trail will also link to bike and pedestrian facilities being developed along Columbia Pike and in Pentagon City, as well as provide a new access way into [Towers Park](#). He also noted these upcoming walks: Shop Local Walking Tour of Crystal City & Pentagon City – November 17 and Social Walk + Happy Hour in Ballston – December 6.
- *[Update on Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons \(RRFBs\)](#):* C. Sherman noted that the County VDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program funding grant has been submitted. In addition to funding for improvements to the North Courthouse Corridor, the grant would also fund 7 RRFBs in priority corridors. TE&O staff have been studying drivers' reactions to RRFBs, and their preliminary analysis shows a 10mph decrease in drivers' speed and a 35% increase in drivers' yield compliance. She plans to present their data to the PAC when the analysis is completed. She also handed out a TE&O business card that promotes using Report a Problem for traffic issues with existing traffic

infrastructure (e.g. ped light malfunction) and a [traffic investigation form](#) for new traffic infrastructure. Note the actual form is linked to the bottom of this page.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:12 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, December 12, 7-9 P.M., in the Dogwood & Cherry Rooms.