

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2018
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms
Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Minutes (approved with edits January 9, 2019)

Present: Eric Goldstein, Chair; Chris Yarie, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; John Armstrong; Ian Blackwell; Jim Feaster; Eric Goodman; Leeann Sinpatanasakul; Andrea Walker; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Christine Sherman, TE&O; Katy Lang, WalkArlington

Guests: Lt. Daniel Murphy, Gail Ginsburg, Phil Haxel, Beverly Johnston, Liz Kirby

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests. There were no public comments.

News items:

- P. Van Hine noted that the January 12, 2019 [Transportation Camp](#) will be held on the Catholic University campus instead of GMU in Arlington. She encouraged everyone to attend, saying that it's a great place to network with other transportation staff and advocates in the region. She also promoted the County-sponsored [public meeting on Amazon](#) at Gunston on December 17, a County call for public feedback on plans for [Fairfax Drive](#) (due December 16), and call for feedback on [NPS plans for Memorial Circle](#), due December 29.
- C. Sherman reported that VDOT has funded at least 4 of the RRFB projects through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program, including constructing bumpouts at Courthouse and RRFBs at Washington and Nelson. She also mentioned planning for pedestrian improvements around Carlin Springs and Arlington Boulevard that would improve student access to several schools in that area.
- J. Feaster, Chair, Commission on Aging (CoA), reported that AARP has accepted Arlington into its [WHO/AARP Livable Communities program](#). The CoA will be holding a series of listening sessions to help plan next steps, and the PAC will be included.
- K. Lang noted that the BAC planned to focus on bicycle safety/access around construction sites in 2019, a recent NVRC meeting and possible funding for a pedestrian leadership program for pedestrian advocates in the region that would be held in Alexandria. Finally, she mentioned the December 20 [Balaclava and Baklava](#) program at the main library. It's full, but you can get on the waiting list.

Lt. Daniel Murphy, Special Operations, Arlington County Police Department: Update

Lt. Murphy reported the good news that pedestrian crashes appear to be down from 2017; 15 to 7 (Sep.17 vs. Sep.18), 9 to 4 (Oct.17 vs. Oct.18), and 16 to 9 (Nov.17 vs. Nov.18). He promised to give us a full report on pedestrian crashes for 2018 this winter. He primarily discussed his participation on the County Shared Mobility Working Group, which meets monthly. He noted that more riders are showing up in the ER than are reported through the police. He also noted that scooters are being ridden faster than 10mph (and some are set for 15mph), riding on sidewalks is a continuing problem (and is not legal in Virginia), that some teenagers have hacked the app, and that some riders are underage. We discussed the continuing problem of scooters being misparked, especially by their handlers, by placing them in areas such as bus stops that impede pedestrian travel. Group is working on a handout on where to ride and on educational programs for parents and children, who do not yet know the rules of the road.

Discussion of Bike Element Update, led by the Chair: R. Viola reviewed the draft update to the Bicycle Element of the Master Transportation Plan at the November PAC meeting, and several PAC members gave him comments and

suggestions. The Chair now gave PAC members an opportunity to provide any additional comments. P. Van Hine reiterated her main comment - that The Prioritization Process and Criteria section in VIII Network and Program Implementation Procedures should specifically include PAC involvement because 1) pedestrian safety is mentioned, 2) most trails are multi-use, and 3) bike facilities will have an impact on pedestrians. E. Goodman, the PAC representative on the Bike Element Update Commission, assured the PAC that prior comments were being addressed, and L. Sinpatanasakul, an At Large member, concurred. E. Goodman mentioned the upcoming public open house for the [bike element update](#) at Phoenix Bikes on January 14.

Eric Goldstein, PAC Chair: Streetlight Management Plan (SMP)

The Chair distributed his comments on the [SMP](#) to the PAC and asked the PAC whether we should write a letter to the County Manager about the SMP and if so, what should be emphasized. He described his two main concerns - the process for developing the proposal, which does not include an opportunity for public comment, and the proposed districting plan, which continues Dominion Electric's provision of streetlights in residential areas. Dominion's provision of service is problematic because, under current contracts with the County and others, including the VEPGA agreement, Dominion has no incentive to provide innovative technology or maintain their streetlight inventory.

The PAC MOVED to write a brief letter to the County Manager that starts with an introductory paragraph on why streetlights are important for pedestrian safety, then focuses on the lack of opportunity for public input into the draft SMP and the implications of the proposed districting plan.

PAC Business:

- *Approval of [November 14, 2018 Minutes](#)*: The Committee MOVED to approve the November 14, 2018 Minutes as submitted.
- *PAC Recommendations for FY 2020 Budget - What's Next (C. Yarie, Vice Chair)*: The Vice Chair distributed copies of his draft letter and explained his choices for topics covered, all of which are essential for pedestrian safety: sidewalks, streetlights, construction, passive enforcement, and supporting Vision Zero. PAC members then participated in a spirited and far-ranging discussion, covering everything from Neighborhood Conservation and Neighborhood Complete Streets to whether the Pedestrian Element should be updated. One important recurring theme was the need for data collection and surveys of actual conditions. J. Armstrong mentioned a [report](#) on ADA compliance in RB corridor, and D. Patton asked if the PAC wanted to help gather data on pedestrian paths. One consensus was that the Pedestrian Element should be updated as part of the County Vision Zero program, and, meanwhile, PAC members should review the [current version](#) to identify sections/topics that need revision. The Vice Chair will revise the budget letter and discuss with the PAC again in January.
- *PAC Comments on the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)*: Per discussions and recommendations at the November meeting, the Chair submitted PAC comments about the draft PSMP to I. Lazic on December 8. The consensus was that no further action was needed at this time.
- *[Long Bridge Project](#) (L. Sinpatanasakul, E. Goodman, D. Patton, P. Van Hine)*: L. Sinpatanasakul briefly updated the PAC on the Long Bridge Project and how the proposed bike-ped bridge would be a mitigating factor for the proposed new, second railroad bridge. On the Virginia side, the bike-ped bridge would connect to the Mount Vernon Trail and to the northern end of the esplanade at Long Bridge Park. Unfortunately, under current plans for the DC side, the bike-ped bridge dumps users onto Ohio Drive, with no easy access to other parts of DC, including the new Wharf section, downtown, or the Mall. Other speakers concurred with these comments, and E. Goodman shared T. Korn's suggestion that the bike-ped bridge be south of the RR bridges. Comments can be sent through [this link](#).

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, January 9, 2019, 7-9 P.M., in the Dogwood & Cherry rooms.