

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee
January 10, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Meeting location: Navy League Building
2300 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

1. Roll Call and Brief Neighborhood Report
 - a.
2. Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2018 NCAC Meeting:
 - a. The Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Officers and Staff Report
(none)
4. Discussion / Action Items:
 - a. Presentation on updates being made to the “Bicycle Element of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP)” by Ritch Viola, Principal Planner, DES
(Handout attached.)
Questions/Comments:
 - i. Terron Sims asked how scooters are being handled, noting that scooters are being dropped everywhere unlike bike shares that have set places to park.

Ritch explained that the County is still in trial period with scooters, and this includes a learning process to see how they will work. At the end of the trial period, adjustments will be made. Ritch also noted that ideally scooters should be ridden in bike lanes, which will get better as more bike lanes are improved.
 - ii. Lauren Bailey stated that her civic association is pushing back on the Bike TMP because many residents feel their needs are underserved, such as pedestrians and elderly. Further, scooters have been an issue on sidewalks, especially for handicapped individuals.

Ritch informed the group that there are other elements to the TMP, such as a Pedestrian Element, and these are being worked on as well. Residents can comment on the TMP webpages about issues such as scooters, and this is informative for the County Board.

Link: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/transportation/master-transportation-plan/>

- iii. Frank McDermott expressed concern about bike safety from Chain Bridge on Glebe Road.

Ritch explained that this is a VDOT road, and agrees this is an important issue that will be taken up with VDOT.

- iv. Jackie Wilson noted that there are different types of bike riders – commuter vs. recreational – and asked if there plans to install bike racks at all metro stops.

Ritch replied that there are bike racks at some, and they are working on how to get more.

- v. Bill Braswell asked if the Bike MTP will be incorporated in the Lee Highway Alliances work.

Ritch said yes, they are working together.

- vi. Thora Colot asked if tourism is being considered with the Bike MTP, as there are many sites tourists want to get to in Arlington.

Ritch replied yes, and noted there are many good trails already to access sites, and more are being looked at.

- vii. Rob Swennes asked if the Bike MTP has joint projects with neighboring jurisdictions, such as routes to get to the American Legion Bridge.

Ritch explained that there is regional coordination, and they have identified some of those goals in conjunction with other jurisdictions.

b. Update on Proposed NC Projects

Tim McIntosh informed the group that the NC Program Evaluation is being delayed for 6 months, but no start date has been set. It is assumed that the evaluation will still take a year, and may not be completed in time to inform the next Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the NC funding budget.

Tim also asked the group how they would like to handle the next possible project funding round in June.

- i. Rob asked the group whether the temporary \$500,000 ceiling on projects should be raised, as he believes the NCAC should be doing meaningful projects, and some viable projects are not captured under this amount, such as Glen Carlyn's 4th St. project and is currently at the top of the queue.

Rob further asked the group whether the NC Program should be reinvented by the NCAC, noting that roughly 70% of the County is covered within the program, and each NCAC Representative is here because they have neighborhoods with projects they want the County to fund. There are many needs of individual neighborhoods that will not be met without the program. Going back to the grass roots of the NC Program, much infrastructure in neighborhoods still needs to be made.

Phil Klingelhofer added that serious negative implications for neighborhoods are at stake, with potentially negative impact to safety and quality of life within each civic association (CA).

Kathy Reeder supported Rob's comments, noting that she believes cutting the budget before a review of the program is not the correct response.

- ii. Bill Braswell stated that he is concerned about disparities in all of the county, and is interested in an "all Arlington" perspective, not only his individual civic association's.

Rob agreed, and also noted the importance of the NC Program and its origins as a grass roots organization, with residents who live in their neighborhood and know what they need having the ability to advocate for those needs in an equitable system.

Bill further commented that he would like to see projects done that have the biggest impact, such that residents in those neighborhoods will want to thank the CB for improvements that really made a difference where they live.

Terron expressed support for Bill's point, and stated he believes the NCAC needs to look strategically at its projects that are submitted for funding, as money is tight.

Megan Lynch expressed support for Bill's point, noting all Arlington residents live in close proximity with one another. She also voiced frustration with the NC Program review being delayed, because she does not want to work on re-writing her CA's NC Plan with so many unknowns.

Lauren Bailey agreed, asking how can a CA update their NC Plan if they do not know what the County Board's plans are for the program.

- iii. Rob summarized with the question, "what does this program mean to the neighborhoods?", noting advocacy is a part of being in the NCAC, yet some change needs to be considered.
- iv. Tim explained that all programs that address neighborhood projects had funding cuts in the last CIP, not just the NC Program.
- v. Jackie Wilson suggested NC consider revising ranking criteria and methodology for proposed projects in light of potential NC budgetary constraints..

Thora Colot agreed that potential projects should be looked at, but noted that the \$500,000 limit was set so more projects can get built. If this is an interim period, then it is logical to have interim projects funded that fit.

Tim informed the group that there are 3 funding rounds left in the current budget.

- vi. Lauren suggested a compromise be made, with a balance between large projects and some beautification, smaller projects.
- vii. Rob informed the group that before the NC Program, residents had to go hat in hand to the County board for anything they need. The power of the program is from the bottom up, and turns residents into advocates for their neighborhoods.

5. Other/New Business:

None.

6. Meeting adjourned.

presented @ NCAC mtg -
by Ritch Viola

1/10/19.

Update of the Master Transportation Plan's Bicycle Element

A draft update of the 2008 Master Transportation Plan's (MTP) Bicycle Element is currently available on Arlington County's website for public review and comment. Two open houses for the update are currently scheduled for:

- January 14, between 6:00 and 7:30 PM at the Arlington Mill Center
- January 22, between 6:00 and 7:30 PM at Westover Library

Public hearings for advertisement and approval of the draft plan are anticipated to be held by the Transportation Commission, Planning Commission and County Board at their March and April meetings.

What is new in this update?

The update addresses recent changes in technologies and facilities, such as bike-sharing, electric scooters and protected bicycle lanes, that have begun to affect how people travel in Arlington. The draft plan, through inclusion of a new vision for bicycling in Arlington, places greater attention to ensuring that bicycling is a safe, reliable, convenient and comfortable travel option for persons of all ages and abilities. The plan calls for expanding Arlington's existing network of bicycle facilities to better serve the entire County with well-connected low-traffic stress bicycling routes that link all primary destinations such as transit stations, schools and commercial centers.

Goals and Policies:

The proposed plan places primary emphasis on development of an environment that allows persons of all ages and abilities to travel bicycle safely and comfortably. That policy places emphasis on upgrading existing bicycle facilities to provide more separation of bicyclists from motor vehicles and in developing new bikeways on streets with lower traffic volumes. The policies also emphasize improving education of all travelers of traffic rules and responsibilities as well as targeting enforcement of traffic laws that will enhance travel safety. Multi-use trails which have been developed to provide recreational opportunities are increasingly being used for routine transportation purposes and should be upgraded to provide for all-day and year-round accessibility. The plan also incorporates new street design guidance that incorporates internationally best practices for urbanized areas. Bicycle parking, integration with transit services, route wayfinding signage and attentive maintenance are also actions called for in policy statements.

The Proposed Bicycle Network:

The draft plan builds upon past planning efforts to produce a well-connected network of bicycle facilities that better serves the entirety of Arlington County. The proposal includes a framework of north-south and east-west Primary Bicycling Corridors that are the most critical for bicycling across Arlington and to nearby regional destinations. Many of the selected corridors, such as Lee Highway, Columbia Pike and George Mason Drive, are heavily traveled by other forms of transportation as they are important for all modes of local travel. Achieving significantly improved bicycling facilities on these routes will likely prove challenging, therefore it will be important to also consider enhancements to adjacent, parallel streets and trails for safer and more comfortable bike travel.

Appendix D of the draft plan includes several lists of planned bicycle improvement projects that are envisioned to improve and expand Arlington's Bikeway Network in upcoming years. The lists include a number of on- and off-street bikeway projects that are currently funded and expected to be implemented over the next few years. There are also lists of proposed projects that would either upgrade existing bicycle facilities on streets or trails, or develop new bikeways to provide key network linkages. The planned new facilities are only conceptual with detailed designs to be developed following further design and with input from affected community members. Funding to implement such projects are to be sought from local, regional, state and federal sources.

The proposed Bikeway Network has been developed and refined from recommendations submitted by community members through the many public engagement activities. In particular, the recommendations have been useful in identifying underserved destinations, insufficient facilities and community priorities for needed improvement. A large percentage of the recommended facility improvements and additions have been recommended to address inadequacies in north-south bicycling routes and in addressing safety and comfort concerns on primary travel routes such as Columbia Pike, Lee Highway and Glebe Road. Some additional trail links such as connections from Crystal City to the Potomac riverfront and National Airport, and between Rosslyn and the Roosevelt Bridge are also called out in the lists of proposed new bikeways.

More Information:

The draft plan and Bikeways Network Map can be found on-line at: <https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/projects/master-transportation-plan-bicycle-element-working-group/>

Questions and comments may be addressed to: Mr. Ritch Viola, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs Manager, rviola@arlingtonva.us , 703 228-3699