

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2019
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms
Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Minutes, approved as submitted, April 10, 2019

Present: Eric Goldstein, Chair; Chris Yarie, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; John Armstrong; Ian Blackwell; Jim Feaster; Gail Ginsburg; Eric Goodman; Tom Korn; Leeann Sinpatanaskul; Andrea Walker; Ritch Viola, Bicycle-Pedestrian Manager; Christine Sherman, Principal Planner, TE&O; Katy Lang, WalkArlington

Guests: Meredith Gade; Marco Viola, student

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests. He congratulated G. Ginsburg on becoming the newest member of the PAC.

Public Comments: Meredith Gade, Columbia Heights Civic Association: Safe Crossing of Walter Reed/South Glebe for Students Walking to Drew Elementary School

M. Gade began by noting that the boundaries for Drew Elementary School are changing and that many students will want to walk to Drew, but will need to cross the dangerous Walter Reed/Glebe intersection to get to Drew. In December, she walked with neighbors, K. Haldeman, APS Director of Multimodal Transportation, Dan Nabors DOT, Katy Lang WalkArlington, and Lauren Hassel SRTS to evaluate the intersection and discuss how it might be fixed. She is attending the PAC meeting to follow up on County plans to improve pedestrian safety at this intersection and the role of the PAC to implement change. The Chair explained that the PAC's role is to advise the County Manager, although the PAC also provides a forum for public comments on pedestrian issues. Having a crossing guard might not be possible because of budget constraints and a relatively small student population at Drew. R. Viola noted that because Glebe is a VDOT highway, the County is limited on what improvements can be made without VDOT permission and involvement. He mentioned that signal timing could be adjusted to give pedestrians more time to cross safely, as well as possibly closing the right turn lane - storage lane, using acceptable tools such as paint. He promised to follow up with staff on plans in response to the December walk. County staff will be responding with potential near-term solutions to improve pedestrian safety. J. Armstrong, Chair, Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC), talked about how the impacts of school boundary changes on student travel modes are studied throughout the County and encouraged Ms. Gade to attend their meetings. Ms. Gade also asked about how to get missing sidewalks in her area, and staff and committee members reviewed various ways and encouraged her to keep trying.

News Items:

- P. Van Hine reminded the group that the DDOT/WABA Vision Zero meeting would be held on the following day.
- K. Lang reviewed upcoming WalkArlington events and encouraged PAC members to attend the Pedestrian Safety section of the LCI course on Wednesday evening 7-9 P.M., March 20 and 27. P. Van Hine and J. Armstrong, who attended last year, reinforced K. Lang's comments and stated how valuable the course was for them. K. Lang also mentioned two upcoming National Walking Day events on April 3 and asked members to contact her if interested in attending the training and/or [Happy Hour & Walk](#). Finally, she was pleased to announce that Renee Moore will start as the new BikeArlington Manager next week.

Ritch Viola, Bike-Ped Manager: [Bicycle Element Update](#):

R. Viola noted that the draft Bicycle Element will be going to the County Board on March 16 for advertisement and to the County Board for vote no earlier than the April 23 Board meeting. The PAC reviewed that they had

previously discussed the draft with Mr. Viola in December, that the [PSMP](#) is also scheduled for advertisement, and that the PAC supports both draft documents. Two motions were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved after discussion:

The Committee **MOVED** to direct the Chair to send a letter of support for the draft Bicycle Element Update to the County Manager, with one caveat - to note that the Committee continues to support the inclusion of the Arlington Hall Trail in the bicycle network, as first expressed in the [PAC NFATC letter](#) of May 4, 2017.

The Committee **MOVED** to direct the Chair to send a letter of support for the draft PSMP to the County Manager.

Invited Speaker: Christine Sherman, Principal Planner, TE&O:

Core of Rosslyn Transportation Study:

The third public meeting about the [Core of Rosslyn Transportation Study](#) was held in the Observation Deck of Central Place Plaza just before the PAC meeting. DOT staff presented Concept 2 through story boards, presentations, and answering questions from attendees, who were also encouraged to post comments on the boards. Concept 2 includes major bike-ped improvements in the Core of Rosslyn and improves access for both groups, with some detriment to traffic flow. One-way protected bike lanes/cycle tracks will be added to Ft. Myer (southbound) and Lynn (northbound), and sidewalks on both streets will be wider. Bike lanes will be extended along Wilson as well. The proposed 18th Street corridor will be pedestrian access only, with a ped light added to cross Ft Myer and new crosswalks. The proposed closure of the slip lane near Dark Star Park is expected to be implemented soon with bollards and planters; in the future, the road could be reconstructed to enlarge the park. Concept 2 also includes an investigation of potential highway ramp installations to route regional traffic away from the Rosslyn core. [Comments](#) may be submitted online by April 3.

Restriping of Washington Boulevard in Westover:

VDOT is repaving this section of Washington Boulevard and is giving the County the opportunity to restripe to improve transportation safety in the area. The County has brought [three alternative](#) plans to the community, including Ms. Sherman's presentation to the PAC this evening. The section closer to Longfellow can accommodate possible pedestrian improvements, but not new bike lanes without taking away street parking. The section in Westover can accommodate new bike lanes. Changing the existing parking spaces in this section to back in parking, as illustrated in proposal 3, would increase safety for all groups. [Comments](#) may be submitted online by March 31.

Other PAC business:

- *Approval of PAC minutes:* from April 17, 2017, January 9, 2019, and February 4, 2019: The Committee unanimously **MOVED** to approve draft PAC minutes from April 17, 2017, January 9, 2019, and February 4, 2019, as submitted, with one clarification to the February 4, 2019 draft BAC-PAC meeting minutes (Mike Hanna was the E2C2 representative).
- *FY 2020 Budget Issues:* The Chair led a brief discussion about the current budget and commented on the County Manager's recent budget meeting with Commissioner and Committee Chairs. During that meeting the Chair learned about a possible proposed loss of one FTE planner if additional cuts are needed.
 - The Committee unanimously **MOVED** to direct the Chair to send a letter to the County Manager in support of keeping this important position in the budget.
- *Age Friendly Initiative (Jim Feaster, Commission on Aging Chair):* J. Feaster quickly noted that the County is part of the [AARP-WHO Age Friendly Initiative](#) and promised to provide a detailed report at the PAC June meeting. He noted that the County will hold a public open house at the Ballston Marymount Campus on Monday, March 18

- *Planning Upcoming PAC Meetings:* The Chair led a brief discussion on ideas for upcoming PAC meetings and asked for suggestions for topics, groups to meet with, and locations. K. Lang noted that BikeArlington and WalkArlington staff are re-evaluating PAL, their volunteer program, and that she will want to solicit feedback and suggestions from the PAC. Among other PAC member suggestions: Safe Routes to Schools, Vision Zero, disability (perhaps with DAC), bus trip with TAC, construction with BAC, sidewalk code enforcement and other sidewalk issues, signals, aging pedestrians, trends in best practices for pedestrians, and meeting at other sites, such as Central Plaza.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:02 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, April 10, at 7 P.M. in the Dogwood & Cherry Rooms. C. Sherman will discuss results of their RRFB study.