

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2019
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center, Room 311
Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Minutes (approved as submitted, September 11, 2019)

Present: Eric Goldstein, Chair; Chris Yarie, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Ian Blackwell; Gail Ginsburg; Eric Goodman; Tom Korns; David Patton, Bicycle-Pedestrian Planner; Katy Lang, WalkArlington Program Manager

Guests: Jim Larsen, Commuter Services Bureau Chief, Guest Speaker; Sarah Crawford, Assistant Director of Transportation, DES; Gordon Chaffin, [Street Justice](#) (Press)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests. There were no public comments.

Eric Goldstein, Chair's Report: The Chair noted that the County Board recently approved two PAC-supported plans, the Bicycle Element Update and the PSMP. He also talked to the County Manager about his concerns about a proposed change to clear zones widths by cafe zones from 10' to 6'. He recommended reading the recently released Washington Area Bus Transformation Project: [Draft Bus Transformation Strategy](#). Finally, he briefly discussed proposed changes to the Neighborhood Conservation Program Review ([NCPR](#)) and noted that the PAC should have a pedestrian participant. Let him know if you are interested.

Invited Speaker: Katy Lang, WalkArlington, Upcoming WalkArlington and Discussion: Ms. Lang briefly commented on the success of the recent Jane's Walk, the first one in Arlington, and the Bike and Walk to School Day. She highlighted [upcoming events](#) such as cultural walks on the west end of Columbia Pike and Rosslyn, Truck and Bus Day, and the NVRC pedestrian safety program on June 4 -- let her know if you are interested in this free, intensive, all-day safety program.

Working Together: Ms. Lang noted that with recent staff changes, staff have the opportunity to work more closely with the PAC and other volunteers (e.g. PAL). She encouraged PAC members to give her suggestions for the types of projects that WalkArlington/BikeArlington staff could work on collaboratively with the PAC, and PAC members enthusiastically obliged. Among the many ideas brainstormed by the PAC were: walk audits, Lee Highway planning, place making, innovations in pedestrian planning, wayfinding (especially trails to streets), pedestrian comfort map, tracking unmarked local pedestrian pathways, managing pedestrian beg buttons, working with BAC-PAC on trail behavior, doing more for key events such as National Walking Day and fall time change support (perhaps with a demonstration of fashionable attire that is light and reflective after dark). She promised to review the list, discuss with staff, and return with next steps.

Invited Speaker: Jim Larsen, Bureau Chief, Commuter Services: [Shared Mobility Devices](#) Demonstration Project: The speaker reviewed the Shared Mobility Devices (SMD) Demonstration Project, from October, 2018 through March, 2019. There were 275,000 trips averaging about one mile/trip, which implies that the SMDs are being used for first and last mile rides rather than as a replacement for transit, which average between 2 and 5 miles, depending upon the form of transit. His handout included a map showing the paths for all rides through March, which coincides with the County's high density corridors and, as the Vice Chair noted, also coincides with the proposed County bike network. Mr. Larsen addressed injuries: 28 crashes reported through April 9, 13 were single-vehicle, 6 with a moving vehicle, 2 with a non-moving vehicle, one with a bike, 4 with pedestrians, and 2 unknowns. The most commonly reported complaints were for riding on sidewalks, improper parking, perceived unsafe riding, and perceived underage riding. He reiterated that these data come from the operators, police, hospital, media, and reported problems, but are not comprehensive. For instance, the County will have no record if rider does not report crash or seek medical help or if citizen moves mis-parked scooters without filing a complaint. On July 1, Virginia Bill [HB 2752](#) on SMDs should go into effect - and allow localities to adopt their own local SMD regulations, such as riding on sidewalks, speed, and age of riders. The initial County pilot project was to run through June, 2019, but project staff hope to continue the demonstration project through the end of 2019 and

plan for County-specific regulations, if the County Board approves. During the project extension, County staff plan to survey the community about the program.

The Chair led the discussion with a question - if bikes are allowed to be ridden on sidewalks, why can't e-scooters be ridden on sidewalks? In response to comments, he asked a followup question - what are the attributes of scooters and scooter riding that would need to be changed to make them safer to use on sidewalks, such as making noise and being more visible. He also asked if e-scooters could be parked on the street as bikes are. P. Van Hine emphasized separating rider issues from "wrangler" issues. She is more concerned about how the "wranglers" are placing their scooters - too often in batches that are improperly parked - than in an individual rider's mis-parked scooter. She believes that batches of scooters are a hazard to pedestrians and others and indicate that e-scooters may not be equitably distributed throughout the County.

The Chair asked the speaker about the best time to give him PAC feedback on the SMD program. They agreed that Mr. Larsen should return to the PAC in September and that the PAC should provide formal feedback after that meeting.

PAC Business, Announcements, Items of Interest: There were no additional announcements.

- In response to Lt. Murphy's suggestion that the PAC learn more about Virginia transportation laws, P. Van Hine distributed copies of [shareVAroads](#), a collaboratively produced booklet on Virginia laws and safety tips for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. She also included a [link](#) to the actual regulations in the April minutes.
- Approval of Draft PAC Minutes from [April 10, 2019](#): The Committee unanimously MOVED to approve the draft April 10, 2019 minutes as submitted.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:57 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, June 12, location TBD. The PAC will hear a School Transportation Update, presented by Kristin Haldeman, APS Multimodal Transportation Planning Director and Lauren Hassel, SRTS, and Making Arlington an Age-Friendly Community, presented by Jim Feaster, Chair, Commission on Aging.