

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting  
Wednesday, June 12, 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; John Armstrong; Ian Blackwell; Gail Ginsburg; Eric Goodman; Andrea Walker; David Patton, Bicycle-Pedestrian Planner; Christine Sherman, Principal Planner, TE&O

Guests: Carl Brooks, Commission on Aging; Patricia Carroll, Arlington County State Liaison; Meredith Gade; Kristin Haldeman, APS; Lauren Hassel, SRTS; Phil Haxel; Christine Ng; Mitch Opalski, Commission on Aging; Sara Steinberger, Planning Commission; Miranda Turner

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests. Miranda Turner noted that she was attending this PAC meeting to learn how to improve the intersection of Glebe and Walter Reed so that students could cross it safely.

**Eric Goldstein, Chair's Report:**

The Chair informed the PAC that Leeann Sinpatanasakul recently resigned from the PAC because remaining in the PAC would be an ethical violation with her new transportation policy position with Senator Minority Leader Charles Schumer. She hopes to continue to attend PAC meetings as a member of the public. Eric asked if any PAC members wanted to volunteer to replace Leeann as the PAC representative on the Lee Highway Alliance, and Gail Ginsburg volunteered.

- *The Committee unanimously **MOVED** to approve Gail Ginsburg to replace Leeann Sinpatanasakul as the PAC representative on the Lee Highway Alliance.*

The Chair also reported that he was one of three presenters on safety issues (crime, pedestrian safety, and e-scooters) at the Crystal City Civic Association meeting on Monday, June 3. He stated that he would compile PAC thoughts on e-scooters and circulate the compilation before June 30, the deadline for public comments on the [SMD demonstration program](#). He also asked PAC members to think about prioritizing [transportation projects in the CIP](#), as Transportation staff have asked the PAC for suggestions. Finally, he mentioned the Arlington County was awarded the [Governor's Transportation Safety Award](#) in the category of Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety at the 2019 Virginia Highway Safety Summit.

**Invited Speakers: Carl Brooks and Mitch Opalski, Commission on Aging (CoA): Making Arlington an Age-Friendly Community:**

Because the population of Virginia, including Arlington, is aging and many seniors hope to "age in place" in Arlington, the Commission on Aging began planning, more than a year ago, on how to make Arlington a more age-friendly community. The CoA submitted an application to be a [Livable Community](#) through the AARP program and received the AARP designation, with a score of 82 out of 100. The County did well in most of the 8 domains of livability, except for housing.

The AARP Livable Community program runs for five years. The County is in its first year, which focuses on surveys and listening sessions, including with County organizations such as the PAC. Next year the CoA will develop an action plan, with implementation and evaluation in the following years.

The speakers asked PAC members about transportation and pedestrian issues in an aging population. Suggestions included the importance of level, wide, smooth, undamaged sidewalks; better street lights; highly visible crosswalks with signals timed for slower walkers; and the need for bathrooms, benches, drinking fountains, and trees for pedestrian comfort. Holding walkability audits in local neighborhoods to document sidewalk and other

pedestrian infrastructure conditions is currently being done in Alexandria, which also has an AARP project. Civic associations and other groups such as the PAC may be eager to help with walkability audits in their neighborhoods. The speakers thanked PAC members for our suggestions and handed out the CoA Age Friendly Arlington questionnaires and encouraged us to complete the [Age Friendly Arlington Survey](#) online or on paper.

**Invited Speaker: Patricia Carroll, Arlington County State Liaison: Suggesting pedestrian-related ideas for Virginia legislation priorities for 2020:**

The speaker reviewed the legislative process in Virginia, including deadlines and processes for providing input through her. She needs PAC suggestions no later than July 15 to put together a County package through the fall which will be presented to the County Board in November at a public meeting, with a Board vote in December. The Virginia legislative session starts on January 8. She noted that there are three categories of bills for Arlington: bills unique to Arlington; bills that affect Arlington primarily, such as transportation and finance; and all budget items. She noted that the Transit Occupancy Tax, which raises significant funding for the County, must be renewed every three years and it is up for renewal. Proposing to restore the frozen NVTAF funds is also important. She also mentioned a [sidewalk bill](#) that passed.

Among her suggestions were:

- Keep it simple: She mentioned [a new law](#) will go into effect July 1 that allows state troopers to use speed cameras in construction zones as an example of how proposing important legislation, e.g. making using speed cameras legal, is best implemented incrementally. She also noted how controversial such legislation can be because of privacy concerns for the driver being caught on camera versus the safety of others sharing the road.
- Do not limit legislation to something that only impacts Arlington.
- Proposal should be one page with supporting documentation on why subject is important.
- Identify and work with other advocates in Virginia.
- Meet with all Arlington representatives and engage with others in the legislature.

C. Ng reviewed [NCSL](#) Traffic Safety State Bill Tracking database; the Chair recommended selecting Pedestrian and Bike Safety and reviewing search results for additional suggestions. The Vice Chair volunteered to compile PAC members' suggestions. Please send them to him no later than **Monday, June 24**.

**Invited Speakers: Kristin Haldeman, Arlington Public Schools (APS), Director of Multimodal Transportation Plans, and Lauren Hassel, Arlington Public Schools Safe Routes to School Coordinator: School Transportation Updates:**

J. Armstrong, PAC member and chair of the APS Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC)), introduced the speakers. K. Haldeman reviewed the history of the relevant committees and staffing, then discussed the APS Transportation Demand Program, APS Go - Smart Routes, Smart Choices. The APS TDM program, which gives APS staff transportation benefits, temporarily lost funding last year, but after a re-evaluation of the program, funding was restored. APS transportation challenges fall in 5 areas: planning transportation needs and routes for new schools; school boundary changes; safety; encouraging students to use public transit; and e-scooters. She noted that the walk zone in Arlington is 1.5 miles from the school. School buses will not be available to students within the walk zone, but bike-ped safety issues crossing major highways and roads can constrict the walk zone border as well as encourage parents to drive their children to school. She mentioned the [South Carlin Springs Road Safety Improvements](#) project, where 3 APS schools are located, as an important example of APS-County joint planning. She also noted increasing "hub" transportation, in which school buses would only stop at one location in an area to pick up students such as Montessori children, who live throughout the County but go to school in one location.

L. Hassel talked about the [APS Safe Routes to School program](#), which is funded by grants from Virginia for the past seven years. She also applies for smaller grants for specific items and activities, such as purchasing variable message signs for safety. The SRTS program focuses on education, encouragement, evaluation, and enforcement, but not engineering. She noted that the education component has been focused on cycling, but she hopes to start

a similar program for pedestrian safety, once curricula are completed. Students are encouraged to walk or bike to school through annual events such as the Bike and Walk to School Day. Part of her evaluation is to gather data on how students get to and from schools over a couple days each fall. Enforcement is primarily through the crossing guards, which are part of the Special Operations Police Department staff. The SRTS program has special activities that honor the hard work of the crossing guards.

**Christine Sherman, Principal Planner, TE&O: TE&O Announcements:** The speaker mentioned several TE&O projects that were either currently up for public comment, such as the Core of Rosslyn Transportation Project, or in planning development with public involvement soon, such as the [South Carlin Springs Road Safety Improvements](#), a [Washington Boulevard & North Nelson](#) project with curb extensions and new crosswalks, and the [VA Multimodal Improvements](#) project. She also mentioned that TE&O plans to submit a Vision Zero proposal to the County Board in July. P. Van Hine also noted the [VDOT I-395 Shirley Interchange](#) public meeting with online comments open; she will post links to notices for all current online comments for transportation projects of interest to County pedestrians.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:09 P.M. The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) on Wednesday, July 10, at 7 P.M. in the Dogwood & Cherry Rooms. Topics will include traffic signals and Vision Zero. The Wednesday, August 14 PAC meeting will start with a walk from Virginia Square through Clarendon and finish with a meeting in the Dogwood & Cherry Rooms.