

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
Ellen M. Bozman Government Center
Dogwood & Cherry Rooms
Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Approved as submitted, August 12, 2020.

Present: Eric Goldstein, Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Ian Blackwell; Jim Feaster; Elizabeth Gallagher; Gail Ginsburg; Tom Kornis; Andrea Walker; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager; Neal Hunter PRC PAC Liaison

Guests: Lt Daniel Murphy, Special Operations, Arlington County Police Department, Invited Speaker

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and the invited speaker. No members of the public showed up for the meeting.

Chair's Report: The Chair reminded attendees about several upcoming meetings and events, including the Virginia Highway [Safety Summit](#) on April 28-30, 2020 in Alexandria; the two-evening (Wednesday March 18/25) Pedestrian Safety and Street Design Training Program at Mobility Lab ([WABA listing](#)), and the US DOT [Summit on Pedestrian Safety](#) on April 7. Please verify that the event is still going on before attending, as many events have been postponed or cancelled because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The Chair also updated members on the County's [Vision Zero](#) program. The online public survey of draft Vision Zero goals is now closed and results are being tabulated. The County Vision Zero groups are now developing action items that will also have public review, in late May, before being finalized. The program goal is to have a draft action plan to go before the County Board before the end of 2020.

Finally, the Chair noted new pedestrian-friendly [legislation](#) passed by the Virginia legislative bodies, though not yet signed by the Governor. These include speed cameras, ability of localities to lower maximum speeds (as little as 15mph), mandatory seat belt use in the rear seat, further restrictions on cell phone use, and new penalties for reckless vehicular driving causing bike-ped crashes.

Lt Daniel Murphy, Special Operations, Arlington County Police Department: DRAFT Bicycle-Pedestrian Crashes in Arlington County, 2019:

Lt Murphy apologized for not being able to give us the promised draft copies of his report at this meeting. Although he has finished the report, it is being reviewed by County staff before being released. He was able to provide some highlights from the report, answer questions about it, and promise to provide the PAC with the report at the next PAC meeting.

Because three of the four 2019 County pedestrian fatalities were older pedestrians, Lt Murphy has included age data in his 2019 report. He also presented data and discussed aging pedestrians with the Commission on Aging. J. Feaster added that the aging community in Arlington will continue to grow to become larger than the population less than 20. The good news is that pedestrian crashes are down slightly from 2018 (117 from 125). However, cyclist crashes have increased, after a sharp drop in 2018 (82 to 57 to 85). He reports that most crashes continue to be during daylight hours in good weather, with clusters during rush hours, when all modes are on the roads. Most crashes continue to be in the major County corridors - Rosslyn-Ballston, Route One, Columbia Pike, and Lee Highway. Finally, the major driver error for pedestrian crashes continues to be making a left turn on a green light, while the pedestrian has a walk signal. He is still reviewing the 17 e-scooter crashes, but he predicts that ridership of rentable e-scooters has peaked. He uses three data sources to produce more robust crash data: Tableau, LERMS, and TREDIS, and uses TREDIS criteria for including a crash. For instance, a crash in a parking lot, on private property, would not meet TREDIS, although a police crash report could be filed. He also noted the challenges of having so many different police forces in the County area, including Pentagon, MWAA, NPS, and Virginia officers. His final report will list 32 points for enforcement.

Finally, he noted that the proposed County budget includes new Traffic Safety Officer Positions - a supervisor and 5 TS officers, who can help with parking enforcement, transportation management for special events, and traffic

detailing in specific areas, similar to the current Daily Rosslyn Traffic Detailing. Current total police staffing is about 320 out of 360 positions, though he believes that having 400-450 positions would be ideal. He noted that many officers cannot afford to live in the County and stay on the County force for only a few years before seeking an easier commute or a better paying position, often in the federal government.

Additional questions from PAC: G Ginsburg mentioned the San Francisco study that showed that the SF police were not fully capturing pedestrian crash injury data because local health care facilities had crash victims that were not in the police records. Lt Murphy explained that for serious injuries, the police do track the health status of crash victims, but not for more minor injuries. When asked, he noted that the records on cell phone use during crashes are not always reliable, though the officers sometimes take the cell phones to review use when there is a serious crash. These phones are returned as quickly as possible. He also noted that Arlington County is unique because of our location, density, and heavy through commuter traffic to the rest of the DMV area. He often compares to Alexandria and works closely with them on crash analysis. T. Korn's commented on P. Van Hine's post about pedestrian crash victim blaming and the need for better lighting at intersections and on sidewalks.

Eric Goldstein, PAC Chair: [County Budget and CIP \(Capital Improvement Projects\)](#):

The Chair mentioned that the Board is currently holding hearings for the FY 2021 Budget. The public budget hearing will be Tuesday, March 31, with final budget adoption on Saturday, April 18. Many items that the PAC recommended in its letter are in the budget, including the sidewalk condition index (a 2-year project that will be performed by concrete maintenance contractors), two additional lighting positions (to bring the total to 5, as originally requested), an additional engineer to help handle the TE&O C3 questions (about 300/month), as well as the Traffic Safety Officer positions described above.

The CIP budget process has started. The public can comment through the online survey, and a public meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19. The Chair distributed a draft PAC CIP letter that C. Yarie, the PAC Vice Chair, prepared

Motion: P. Van Hine moved to approve the letter, with minor additional editorial changes from the Chair. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Other Items:

Welcome, Elizabeth Gallagher, newly appointed PAC member: She briefly reviewed her car-free life in Ballston and why she joined the PAC. She asked if the PAC had ever discussed zoning, an interest of hers. Short answer is no, though the Chair mentioned challenges with retail vs. retail equivalents (e.g. a building's PRIVATE health club, dog service, child care) and the impact of retail equivalents on the pedestrian experience.

D. Patton distributed an updated spreadsheet with members' names, contact information, PAC dates, neighborhood, and other related County positions. Please send him any corrections and additions as soon as possible so he can submit the list to County Management staff. T. Korn's noted that the PAC should celebrate its 20th anniversary, preferably on top of the Rosslyn CEB Tower [Observation Deck](#).

Review and Approval of the draft February 12, 2020 PAC Minutes:

Motion: J. Feaster moved to approve the [draft minutes](#) as submitted. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously by PAC members present.

Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager: Update: She reported that the artist scheduled to lead the March 19 reflective jewelry program is not able to come. National Walking Day, April 1, will still be celebrated in Arlington at several stops in key locations during the day and a social walk in Rosslyn. The County will officially celebrate the entire week, including a Bluemont walk on Saturday led by M. Dallao. She is also working on a County cherry blossom walk featuring both cherries and several retail cherry-related highlights. [After the PAC meeting, she confirmed that the Traffic Garden PopUp has been cancelled.]

Next Meeting: Joint BAC-PAC-CPR Meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 7P.M., [Navy League Building \(2300 Wilson Blvd.\)](#)

The Chair reminded attendees that the April meeting will be unique - jointly held with two other County groups and on a different day and in a different location! He asked for agenda topic suggestions. N. Hunter suggested

discussing several of the new parks, including MetPark park; P. Van Hine reiterated shared trail use guidelines, T. Korn mentioned newer trail surfaces, such as [porous asphalt](#), [rubberized or organic surfaces](#), and how to build missing links.

In other topics, J. Feaster talked about the new County biophilic initiative and how it relates to Vision 2027, as well as updating the PAC on the Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee ([PSMP-IAC](#)) work. D. Patton noted that Bob Upton is the new “trails” staff person. He also noted that the PAC may want to include more about enhancing the built pedestrian environment when the Pedestrian Element is revised, and P. Van Hine noted how important an update would be for SPRC work.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:44 P.M.