

Arlington County Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Bicycle Advisory Committee Joint Virtual Meeting,  
Microsoft TEAMS  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 7 P.M. – 9 P.M.

Minutes (Revised, 2020.10.16, Approved as revised 2020.11.04)

Notes:

- 1) For the first time, this virtual PAC-BAC joint meeting on the TEAMS platform was recorded. The recording is available on YouTube [here](#).
- 2) Links to Arlington Public Schools documents referred to during the discussion of walking and biking during the pandemic are embedded in the APS section of the minutes.
- 3) Links to these are also available in the document "September 2020 addenda."

PAC Attendees: Eric Goldstein, Chair; Chris Yarie, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; Elizabeth Gallagher; Gail Ginsburg; Eric Goodman; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, Walk Arlington Program Manager

BAC Attendees: Gillian Burgess, Chair; Elizabeth Kiker, Vice Chair; Dana Bres; Eric Goodman; Mike Hannah; Dwight Hlustick; Megan Jones; Steve Offutt; Cynthia Palmer; Leah Gerber, Active Transportation Coordinator; Robert Upton, DPR Trails Manager; Evelyn Murcia, Bike Arlington Events & Outreach Coordinator

Guests: Speakers: Samia Byrd, Chief Race and Equity Officer, Deputy County Manager; Kristin Haldeman, Director, Multimodal Transportation Planning, APS; Lauren Hassel; Safe Routes to School Coordinator, APS; Bryna Helfer, Assistant County Manager, Director Communications and Public Engagement; Other County/ACCS staff: Henry Dunbar, Director of Operations and Active Transportation, ACCS; Christine Sherman Baker, Vision Zero Project Manager; Erin Potter, Community Engagement Specialist DES

Guests: David Ansell, Collier Cook, Christopher Forinash, Judd Isbell (Alexandria BPAC Emissary), Rochelle Kaufman, Patrick Kenney, Monica Morin, Benjamin Nichols, Leeann Sinpatanasakul, Dwight Hlustick, Leslie T (Arl FSS/BAC)

Press: Gordon Chaffin, Street Justice

At 7:01 P.M., Eric Goldstein, PAC Chair, and Gillian Burgess, BAC Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed BAC-PAC members, staff, and guests to the first virtual BAC-PAC meeting, held through the County's Microsoft Office TEAMS interface. The BAC Chair recognized attendees through a roll call, and the list of registrants entered through TEAMS is the basis of the meeting attendance records, albeit possibly incomplete. As there were no public comments, the Chairs proceeded to the speakers' presentations.

**Arlington Public Schools: expanding walking and biking during the pandemic:** Kristin Haldeman, Director, Multimodal Transportation Planning, APS, and Lauren Hassel, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, APS:

K. Haldeman began the discussion by reviewing the status of APS schools, which opened virtually this week. The expectation is that schools will reopen in person eventually, when it is possible to do so safely. A major issue is how to get students to school safely, because only 11 students can ride the school buses per trip. Although more than 50% of impacted parents would like to drive their children to school instead, APS is discouraging driving because the school facilities cannot support the increased resulting PUDO safely.

As an alternative to driving, APS staff are exploring several methods to increase use of active modes of transportation for school children. First, APS is focusing attention on neighborhoods close to schools that had bus service pre-COVID, but will not have bus service under the new reduced service. Maps for these “Expanded Walk Zones” (XWZs) are still being developed. Creating walking school buses (ped pods) and bike trains are other options being considered. Staff hope to have plans in place by the time schools reopen.

L. Hassel described the walk audit tool used to develop the walking map, and a draft walking map for Key was shown at the meeting. BAC and PAC members are encouraged to help with the walk audits/bike audits to prepare maps for the 16 impacted schools. The audits will also create a record of near-term and long-term needed improvements along the routes, which will help DES staff prioritize improvements. If you are interested in helping with these audits, please contact L. Hassel.

Link to APS XWZ walk/bike [audit checklist](#).

Links to APS [school overviews](#), with XWZ schools highlighted.

For more information on APS transportation and SRTS, check out these APS websites:

[SRTS](#), [APS School Year](#), [APS Go!](#).

**Equity, Diversity, and Committee Membership:** Samia Byrd; Chief Race and Equity Officer; Deputy County Manager, and Bryna Helfer; Assistant County Manager, Director of Communications and Public Engagement:

S. Byrd reviewed the development of the County equity program, [RACE](#):

Realizing Arlington's Commitment to Equity, and explained that the emphasis is on addressing racial equity because of the long history of racial injustice. Per RACE, an equitable Arlington is one where all are valued, educated, healthy & safe regardless of race. However, an equity filter can be applied to address inequities for all vulnerable populations, including the aged, children, and those with disabilities of all kinds.

The County equity program is based upon [GARE](#) (Government Alliance on Race and Equity) [Theory of Change](#). In this model, equity is achieved through normalizing, organizing, and operationalizing necessary changes through the different stages of program development, implementation, and sustainability. GARE is also a source for many tools for developing and implementing an effective equity program. For any policy, we must ask: Who benefits, who is burdened, how do you know, who is missing? See the GARE presentation to the County Board, staff recommendations, and the County resolution on equity, September 19, 2019 under the presentations section of the RACE website.

B. Helfer challenged the BAC-PAC to think about how to apply the racial equity lens to BAC-PAC advocacy and membership – in an intentional way, as the BAC Chair noted. S. Byrd supported the importance of being deliberately intentional in equity work and cited a MWCOG May 2018 report on equity as an excellent resource. The speakers stated that Blacks and Browns do bike and walk, but face many challenges. Use the 4 questions to frame some of the issues, e.g. why are better bike-ped facilities in the more redeveloped and gentrified parts of Arlington, how are transportation options and access filtered by race. Reach out to relevant communities and organizations, actively listen to their voices, learn how they are using language, and begin the conversation respectfully, intentionally, and carefully. Have native speakers, use translators, and even use Google Translate as needed. Be a trusted partner, find trusted partners. Different approaches may be needed (formats, content) to reach different groups – and effectiveness of methods needs to be evaluated. Programs need to be data-driven, but start with qualitative information gathering.

S. Byrd left us with this final thought: “Racism has been a matter of urgency for more than 400 years, and it won’t be solved because of this moment we are acutely aware, but because we are chronically

persistent, and we persevere in our approach to dismantle it at the root, no matter how tiring or uncomfortable.”

**BAC-PAC Committee business:**

- **PAC:** *Review and approval of the draft* minutes from the August 12, 2020 PAC meeting:  
**Motion:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes, with corrections suggested by the Recording Secretary. The revised minutes were approved unanimously by PAC members present.
  
- **BAC:** *Review and approval of the*  
**Motion:** A motion was made and seconded to nominate Elizabeth Kiker as Chair-elect and Cynthia Palmer as Vice Chair-elect. Both candidates were elected unanimously to serve a two-year term.

The PAC Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:52 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 7 P.M. Watch for meeting announcement, with draft agenda and information on how to participate virtually. The BAC Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M. The next BAC meeting will be held Monday, October 5.