**DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE HYBRID**

**ARLINGTON COUNTY DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Monday, March 17, 2025

The **DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION** convened its meeting at **7:00** on **March 17, 2025**.

**PRESENT (IN-PERSON)** Commissioner Karen Audant

 Commissioner Justin Boatner

**PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)** Commissioner Alexa Mavroidis, chair participated virtually from home (via Teams) due to personal matter (work schedule).

 Commissioner Elizabeth Priaulx, participated virtually from home (via Teams due to medical preventing them from attending in-person.

Commissioner Marilyn McAlice, participated virtually from home (via Teams due to medical preventing them from attending in-person.

**ABSENT** Commissioner Bryant Atkins

 Commissioner Duncan Barron

Commissioner Doris Ray

Commissioner Suzette Risacher

**STAFF** **Courtney Sales**

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

***Proposed Budget and Systemwide Performance Metrics Presentation- Mr. Clinton Edwards, Transit Services Manager, Department of Environmental Services – Transit Bureau***

This presentation is a follow-up to Mr. Clinton’s visit in March 2024. The 2026 fiscal year (FY) proposed budget has reductions due to revenues not coming in at the levels previously projected. The department reviewed a myriad of items across all services offered and factored in what would be the least impact on persons system wide (STAR and fixed route ART). The decision was made to reduce Route 43, limited express servicing theCourthouse.

The county manager's budget also adjusted the frequency of services from 10 minutes during peak and 15 minutes off peak to 20 minutes all day. This service change is due to the complementary Metrorail service in the corridor along the blue, orange and silver lines. This may result in longer wait times between buses. With the proposed changes, the department can meet the requested budget reduction.

Art/START Metrics:

In fiscal year (FY) 2025 to date, ridership from July 2024 to January 2025 totaled 1.46 million passengers. This is a testament to Arlington community members' desire to use public transportation. Three routes were eliminated (route 53,61, 62) and Route 56 was established. Despite the changes, ridership was up 3.8%. Compared to FY25 and FY 24 overall ART ridership is up 8.9%.

ART Student iRide Program (iRide)

The department initiated a partnership with Metro bus in January 2024. The iRide program, previously a program for Arlington County students with an iRide card can ride ART for free, has expanded services to Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metro bus routes servicing Arlington County. The program has increased 45% in ridership compared to last January (2024).

STAR

Despite the inclement weather, ridership is down just about 600 passengers from January 2024 to January 2025. The department was pleased with the increase in ridership despite the increase in fares for zone 3. Ridership is only down a half a percent compared to FY 2024. Ridership is averaging about 4200 passengers per month.

***Proposed intersection Route 1 Multimodal Study in Crystal City- Kimley-Horn***

***Dan Reinhardt VDOT project manager for the route one multimodal improvement study.***

In 2018, the Commonwealth of Virginia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Amazon Services Incorporated. This MOU commits the Commonwealth to expeditiously evaluate and implement opportunities to improve safety, accessibility and the pedestrian experience crossing route one with 25,000 new Amazon employees coming to Crystal City.

The Crystal City and Pentagon City areas are heavily developed and provide limited area to expand. The street network feasibility studies are currently posted on the project website. The team evaluated the needs for future demands, including bicycles, pedestrians, transit riders and motorized vehicles.

Phase one of the feasibility study recommended converting route one to a configuration at intersections of 15th St. and 18th St. with multimodal improvements. Phase 2 study area recommended extending route 1. This is the new study area that was expanded based on feedback received. The study area was expanded further South to 23rd Street. The team reviewed other opportunities to expand Urban Blvd. further north. One of the key concept designs heard from the community was lowering the speed limit from 35 miles per hour (which has been approved by VDOT). Once the project is implemented, the new speed limit will be 25 miles an hour.

The project is not fully funded. The team is working on advancing other elements. Once funding is available, the project can move to the development phase.

[Presentation PowerPoint](file:///C%3A/Users/csales/Downloads/Route%201%20Phase%202%20DAC%202015-03-17_ForDAC.pptx)

Drafted letter (accessible doors)/Vote- Commissioner Marilyn

Comments received from the last meeting were incorporated. The only big change was the move to address the letter to Arlington County Board. The last pending item is to decide who would go to the Virginia Department of Community Planning and Housing Development to move forward with this.

Recommendations from Commissioner Karen

Move bullet #4 to the #1 on the list.

Action item:

Commissioner Marilyn will make the changes and send them out to the commissioner for review.

***Chair’s Report- Chair Alexa M.***

Chair thanked the commissioners for sending their comments on the proposed budget. A budget session is scheduled for March 20th. The chair will provide comments at the session. The chair emailed DAC’s comments to Mr. Kushnir (Clerk to the County Board) per his request for March 11th session. The chair asked the commission to send their comments related to transportation.

***Site Plan Review Committee- Commissioner Doris R-***

No report

***Housing Commission- Commissioner Doris R***

no report

***WMATA- Commissioner Doris R –***

no report

***Transportation Plan Advisory Committee- Commissioner Elizabeth P.***

Arlington’s transportation future. The drafted plan was sent to commissioners for review and feedback.

This is an update to a document from 2008 that detailed a set of priorities for Arlington modes of transportation (i.e. walking, bike riding, buses, METRO etc.). Forty-two days of public comment andevents were held between October 7th and November 17th. DAC was represented at some of those public events.

Accessibility is mentioned throughout and equitable access. However, the document references equity and accessibility not in terms of disability accessibility.

The committee was referring to equity around the county (i.e. bicycle lanes, Pop-ups). For example, equity of community members on Columbia Pike who can access Metro versus buses, not accessibility.

Commissioner Elizabeth plans to follow up and provide comments regarding disability access (curbs, sidewalks and no brick pavers can be difficult for persons with disabilities to navigate). Commissioner Elizabeth noted it is hard to determine what is walkable in the sense of wheelchair accessible.

Action Item:

Send comments to Commissioner Elizabeth by March 29th.

***Barcroft Land Use Analysis: Engagement Working Group- Commissioner Karen A***

No updates.

**MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

No votes due to quorum not met.

Meeting adjourned at **8:54 pm**.