

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS
Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 7 P.M. – 9 P.M.
This meeting was recorded

Revised Minutes, APPROVED with corrections, April 14, 2021

Attendees: Eric Goldstein Chair; Eric Goodman, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; Elizabeth Gallagher; Patrick Kenney; Tom Korn; Andrea Walker; David Patton, Bike & Pedestrian Planner; Leah Gerber, Active Transportation Coordinator; Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager

Guests: Christer Ahl, CCCRC Chair; Kevin Casadei, DOT Staff; Gordon Chaffin, media; Collier Cook, BAC; Susan English, Arlington Ridge resident; Neal Hunter, PRC representative; Rob Mandle, National Landing BID; Jason Schlosberg, Aurora Highlands resident

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests. There were no public comments.

Chair's Report: The Chair reminded the PAC that the April 14th meeting will be held jointly with the Park & Recreation Commission, only one year late! Christine Baker, the Vision Zero Project Manager, will return to the PAC as well to update us on the Vision Zero Action Plan and discuss next steps. Future topics will include parklets and police. The Chair then shared his comments on the draft Vision Zero Action Plan, co-written with C. Yarie and E. Goodman, and submitted on the PAC's behalf. These comments focused on the disconnect between the action steps and creating safer streets, as well as their lack of metrics, and therefore measurable success. He also noted that time frames for critical projects were too far in the future and reminded staff about PAC concerns with the RAP and MOT, submitted earlier. His final major area of concern is ensuring that action items B6 and B7, the Guidelines/Standards and Multimodal Safety Toolbox, are implemented in a comprehensive, forward thinking, and ambitious manner, because he believes that these actions present a real opportunity to make significant strides forward in our ability to rectify unsafe road conditions. He plans to submit a letter to the County Manager summarizing these concerns. He also noted that staff do not plan to add specific metrics because they want to maintain flexibility.

Pamela Van Hine: Crystal City Water Park proposal – PAC discussion prior to Board review: Ms. Van Hine reviewed how and why the PAC served as a public forum for the review the JBGS Water Park plans at the February 10, 2021 PAC meeting. She showed two slides: the initial JBGS street view with an 8' clear zone, and the new revised one that showed a 10' minimum clear zone and somewhat enlarged planting zone. She asked the PAC to approve a letter from the Chair to the County Manager, including PAC support on three issues: the revised JBGS general transportation plans for the renovation of the Water Park, a 6' minimum planting strip, and a continuing public discussion about the CCC/VRE connection.
Motion: After discussion, the PAC voted to support the letter and the first recommendation in the letter: The PAC supports the revised general JBGS transportation plans for the renovated Water Park now that JBGS has removed the staircase and enlarged the sidewalk clear zone along Crystal Drive to 10' minimum from 8'. However, the PAC determined that it was not appropriate to make a recommendation on the planting zone because it was outside of our purview and decided that supporting additional public discussion of the VRE/CCC connection did not need a formal recommendation. The Chair will refer to both the planting zone and the public discussion of the VRE/CCC connections in his revision. He will also include a statement on how responsive JBGS representative and collaborative the JBGS representatives were with the PAC. The County Board will [review](#) the JBGS proposal again during their [March 20, 2021](#) meeting.

Pamela Van Hine: VDOT Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Study – An Update from a Pedestrian Perspective: Ms. Van Hine, the PAC representative on the task force for this VDOT project, showed [VDOT slides](#) from their recent public meeting.

She explained that she was providing more detail about the project at this PAC meeting because VDOT has started to propose specific concepts for remodeling Route 1 in the National Landing area. She reviewed the contents of her draft comments to VDOT on their proposal to date and asked the PAC to support her sending these comments as the official PAC representative. R. Mandle, representing the National Landing BID, stated that pedestrian safety must always be foremost, that the VDOT at-grade concepts were unacceptable, and that the BID will continue to support a true at-grade urban boulevard concept. Others commented on the role, objectives, and priorities of VDOT and the County on this project, as well as seeking a solution that can be future-proofed. After discussion, the PAC decided that it was not appropriate to support sending these comments as an official PAC recommendation, but that it was appropriate for Ms. Van Hine to send them as the official PAC representative. D. Patton agreed to contact R. Best about the County's response to VDOT plans, with the hope that a County representative can speak to the PAC about the VDOT plans.

Motions approved: The PAC supports Ms. Van Hine sending her comments to VDOT in her capacity as the official representative of the PAC on the VDOT Task Force for the Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Feasibility Study. The PAC also voted to support a statement that the VDOT at-grade concepts presented during the March 3 meeting were not acceptable.

Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager: WalkArlington Update: Ms. Dallao reminded the PAC about plans for [National Walking Day](#) on April 7 and the upcoming spring 8-week walking challenge. Sign up here to receive updates on the spring [challenge](#) – and stay tuned for details!

Leah Gerber, Project Manager, and Ken Casadei, Design Engineer: Crystal City Bike Network – a Q&A Session: Ms. Gerber and Mr. Casadei briefly reviewed the history, status, and general plan for the proposed [Crystal City Bike Network](#) and then answered questions from the audience. Most of the questions were about adding a protected bike lane on the east side of Crystal Drive, where riders really want to be, and how a lack of a NB PBL on Crystal Drive will encourage cyclists to continue to ride on the sidewalk, creating a pedestrian hazard. Review materials available on the project website, including from the project's Feb. 25 virtual community meeting, then [share your feedback online](#) through March 21, 2021 (extended from March 14). Ms. Gerber invited the PAC to attend the [April 5 BAC meeting](#), which will include an extensive discussion of the CCCBN with transit officials. Watch for the second public engagement, coming soon!

PAC Business:

- *Eric Goldstein: Review of planned topics for upcoming meetings:* The Chair listed the topics that the PAC had cited in December and asked if the PAC had additional suggestions and priorities. The PAC decided that the Chair should send an email to PAC members to list their priorities.
- *Approval of Draft [Minutes from February 10, 2021](#) PAC meeting:*
Motion: The PAC approved the draft minutes from the February 10, 2021 PAC meeting with one correction.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:57 P.M. The next PAC meeting, on April 14 at 7 P.M., will be a joint virtual meeting with the Park & Recreation Meeting. Christine Baker, the Vision Zero Project Manager, will also present. Watch the [PAC webpage](#) for a draft agenda and instructions on how to access the meeting.