

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
Courthouse Plaza, Dogwood & Cherry
2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Approved April 13, 2016

Present: Dennis Jaffe, Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Vice Chair; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; Dan Foster; Eric Goldstein; David Goodman; Eric Goodman; Tom Kornis; David Patton; Collin Weber

Guests: Ritch Viola and Larry Filler, DES staff; and Lt. Ken Dennis, Arlington County Police Department

Public speakers: None

Items of Interest: E. Goldstein reminded the PAC to complete the online transit survey that is open through Friday, March 11. He noted a new proposed real time on demand service that would pick up groups of passengers when appropriate.

Invited Speaker: Lt. Ken Dennis, Arlington County Police Department, Traffic Accident Reduction Program (TARP) Analysis 2015

Lt. Dennis gave a brief presentation of 2015 Traffic Accident Reduction Program (TARP) collision data that included collision trends for pedestrians and for cyclists from 2012-2015. His presentation included Arlington maps of “hot spots” for all types of collisions. He discussed how “hot spots” are monitored and ticketed by Arlington County police and how relevant information is shared with DES staff, e.g. changes in signaling may be warranted. D. Goodman noted that these quarterly reports, which do not indicate trend data, are more useful to operational DES staff than to those DES staff involved with long-ranged planning for services. Lt. Dennis mentioned how educational programs, such as PAL and Street Smart, are critical to reducing collisions. He also noted that the flashing sign boards can work – one that said not to hit the car in front of you actually reduced these collisions significantly! He specially mentioned the [RPSI](#) (Rosslyn Pedestrian Safety Initiative), which addresses the most dangerous intersections for pedestrians in Arlington – Lee Highway and Lynn or Ft. Myer. TARP data are released quarterly and have been used to determine where to locate red light cameras.

After the presentation, PAC members peppered Lt. Dennis with questions and comments. D. Foster suggested sharing data with the neighborhood associations, and the chair expanded that suggestion to sharing with everyone, including the BIDs and alliances. J. Armstrong asked about gathering speeding data, and Lt. Dennis noted that it is initially tracked through existing radar cameras throughout the County. He then noted that additional data are gathered both through rotation throughout the County and in response to specific complaints.

Invited Speaker: Ritch Viola, DES, Policies and Practices Related to Sidewalk Widths on Low Density Residential Streets

R. Viola returned to the PAC for the third month in a row, this time to discuss the recently released and Policies and Practices Related to Sidewalk Widths on Low Density Residential Streets document. He reviewed the recent history of its development, from the September 14, 2015 letter from the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC), through the February 22 letter from D. Leach, DES, to the County Manager, and the February 22 response from the County Manager. He noted that staff did not amend the existing MTP, but added these more specific implementation guidelines. He also noted that the primary changes were two – Exception A – if the publicly-owned right-of-way is 40' or less, and that the 4' exceptions could be applied to the entire block, even if the exception was a single tree or structure. He also noted that if a 4' wide sidewalk was installed, ADA guidelines require a 5'x5' area every 200 feet for people with disabilities to pass each other. He also noted sidewalk widths for multi-family or townhouse district must be at least 5' width. He also described the samples of existing exceptions and how Arlington guidelines compared to other local jurisdictions. He indicated that these guidelines would apply to NCAC proposals, to NCS proposals, and to other sidewalk projects on neighborhood streets.

After R. Viola left the meeting, the PAC voted to prepare two letters – one in support of funding for one position for the NCS program and one stating concerns about the development process for the sidewalk width guidelines. Eric Goodman agreed to draft the NCS staff person support letter, and Eric Goldstein agreed to draft the letter about the sidewalk widths.

February 10 PAC minutes (P. Van Hine) PAC members moved and seconded approval of the [minutes](#), and no members offered any corrections. PAC members unanimously approved the minutes as submitted.

Snow Mountain Followup (P. Van Hine)

The Vice Chair briefly described the County-wide snow meeting held on February 24 that she and the Chair attended, and she passed around the Snow Removal FAQ and survey results that were distributed at the meeting. Compiled results and recommendations from the meeting have not yet been posted, and the PAC has had no response to the [“snow mountain” letter](#) sent on February 22. The PAC hopes to proceed to next steps after we have a response from the meeting and to the letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13 at 7 P.M. In the Dogwood & Cherry Rooms.