

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2014 7-9 PM
Courthouse Plaza, Birch room
2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Minutes, approved April 8, 2014, with edits, edited again July 10, 2015

Attending: Dennis Jaffe, Chair, John Armstrong; Eric Goodman; Tom Korn; Christine Ng; David Patton; Pamela Van Hine
Guest:: Valerie Mosley

No public speakers.

Guest Speaker: Valerie Mosley – S. Walter Reed Drive (between Four Mile Run Drive and Arlington Mill Drive)

Valerie Mosley, an Arlington capital project manager and coordinator, presented draft plans to improve S. Walter Reed Drive between Four Mile Run Drive and Arlington Mill Drive to make this section of the road safer and more inviting for cyclists and pedestrians, especially those who connect between the Four Mile Run Trail and the W&O Trail. Plans include removing the median strip to gain more space, enlarging the vehicular travel lanes to 11', enlarging both the sidewalk and bicycle lane, elevating the bicycle lane to the same level as the sidewalk, better signage to trails, and making the area ADA compliant. The pedestrian "pork chop" at the intersection of Arlington Mill Drive and Walter Reed Drive will be enlarged and the crossing will include a ramp for cyclists and pedestrians. (See existing slip lane at Glebe and Wilson for an example.) The bridge will be enhanced with better lighting and some plantings. The project time frame is to complete the plan by Winter-Spring 2015 and complete implementation by Summer-Fall 2016. The committee asked about the impact of adding a crosswalk on the south side of Arlington Mill Drive as pedestrians would compete with left-turning vehicles. Ms. Mosley addressed the continuing need for a right turn slip lane at Arlington Mill Drive and Walter Reed Drive because of large county vehicles that need to turn at this site, though additional safety features may be explored.

T Korn raised several issues about the plan and area:

- that interpretive signage related to 4 mile Run restoration and also bike route information be added with a horizontal display on the hand rails on both sides of the Bridge.

- that special treatment could be made of the new street lamps to emphasize the Bridge nature of the site that is now perceived as a causeway.

- this is an opportunity to make a stopping and viewing place of the 4 Mile Run.

Finally, E Goodman suggested considering having the sidewalk/bike lane be a continuation of the Four Mile Run format – a bi-directional, multi-use trail.

The website for this project is: <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/south-walter-reed-drive-improvements-arlington-mill-drive-four-mile-run-drive/>

Approval of November minutes:

Minutes included changes from L Hassel. E Goodman made one minor addition. Revised minutes were unanimously approved.

News boxes:

The chair updated the committee on progress on the news boxes campaign. 27 Arlington citizens and organizations have signed letters of support for the project. After some discussion of pursuing a few missing groups, the committee agreed that it was time to submit the letter to the county. The chair will followup.

Working with Neighborhood Community Associations: D Jaffe

At the November meeting, the committee began a discussion of ways in which the committee could work more closely with neighborhood community associations to improve pedestrian safety in specific neighborhoods. At that meeting, the committee quickly realized pedestrian issues could include cycling and vehicular traffic issues as well – possibly a quite large project. At the December meeting, committee members expressed uncertainty about the purpose and goals of the

project, how it might overlap with existing activities (online reporting system, NCAC, and the Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission), and impact on Arlington transportation staff. Consensus was reached that the committee should review the online reporting system and make recommendations for making it easier to report problems, especially for pedestrian issues. The committee also concurred that the overall project might focus on committee role as a conduit for neighborhood issues, that the committee would reach out to the neighborhood associations, but not actually visit them all, and that neighborhood association participation would be completely voluntary. The general discussion will continue at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 2015!