

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 7 P.M.

DRAFT Minutes

YouTube Meeting recording: https://arlingtonva-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lgerber_arlingtonva_us/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fgerber%5Farlingtonva%5Fus%2FDocuments%2FRecordings%2FMarch%202022%20PAC%20Meeting%2Emp4&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fgerber%5Farlingtonva%5Fus%2FDoc

See the meeting addendum for the presenters' slide decks (Neighborhood Complete Streets and MOT Report a Problem) and the Jam Board for PAC CIP ideas.

Attendees: Elizabeth Gallagher, Chair; Eric Goodman, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; Eric Goldstein; Tom Korn; Andrea Walker; Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager; Leah Gerber, Active Transportation Coordinator and Senior Planner

Guests: Speakers: Michelle Stafford, Neighborhood Complete Streets Program Manager, DES, and Leah Gerber, Active Transportation Coordinator and Senior Planner, DES; Eric Malpeli; Neal Hunter, Park & Recreation Commission (PRC) Representative; Matt Jones, National Landing BID

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests. L. Gerber substituted for D. Patton for this meeting, to help ensure that the virtual meeting runs smoothly and is recorded. She was also one of the speakers. Attendees and guests introduced themselves.

Chair's Report: The Chair asked for volunteers to provide positive testimony about the County [Vision Zero draft Toolbox](#) at an upcoming Transportation Commission meeting, probably on April 28. She also introduced a new regular PAC component at upcoming PAC meetings: Prior to upcoming meetings, D. Patton would contact 3 PAC members to ask them to prepare brief updates on their PAC-related engagements. Doing this will engage the PAC membership and update everyone on a regular basis on these important pedestrian-related County meetings.

Michelle Stafford, [Neighborhood Complete Streets Program](#) Manager: Update on the Neighborhood Complete Streets Program (see slides in meeting addendum). Spring funding session coming up for 2024 funding.

The speaker announced the completion of the first approved Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) project: 7th Road South, Arlington Mill. She then quickly reviewed the next NCS project ready for construction - 13th St. South between Glebe and Walter Reed Drive and the current [projects](#) being planned: 28th St. South, S. Irving Street, N. Fairfax Drive, and 9th Street South. The public comment period for S. Irving Street is now open; conflicting street width guidelines between the County MTP and fire code required changes to the initial design. Note that the 9th Street project, by Walter Reed Drive is making pedestrian improvements over an alley. Even this relatively minor project has some storm water challenges however. She noted that the next meeting of the NCS Commission will focus on funding.

PAC comments and questions: How do NCS projects intersect with Vision Zero: The NCS scoring system includes a history of crashes and notes vulnerable populations (e.g. close to schools, transit stops). NCS already works with Vision Zero staff to use hot spot data to help identify areas that may need a NCS project. A. Walker asked about the 28th Street project – was the lighting adequate and is another crosswalk being added? No new crosswalk, but speaker will check on the lighting plans.

Leah Gerber, Active Transportation Coordinator and Senior Planner: Developing a Better Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Traffic system

The speaker showed the draft form for reporting a Request for Service for MOT violations. She presented this information to the BAC, whose members had many useful suggestions for improving the form. She hopes that we will have additional suggestions and encourages us to send MOT violations to her to help test the system.

PAC comments and suggestions: The pick list choices were both too much and too little. Users would not always know how long the violation had been there or even what the construction project was, as sometimes leftover construction materials are not removed at the completion of a project. The PAC did not feel that those questions provided essential information. Members encouraged adding an "other" field to capture conditions and details that were not on the list. Members also wanted to know how requests would be processed, how emergency issues could be elevated, and how feedback would be provided. The speaker verified that this system would become part of the overall Report a Problem system, that requests would be routed to appropriate staff, that feedback on resolution would be provided, and that staff

would elevate emergency issues as well as provide phone numbers for emergency reporting. The construction site should also have signage with this information posted.

The speaker also promoted an upcoming County Multimodal Improvement Project for a 2-mile stretch of George Mason Drive. Public engagement will include a community kickoff and walking tours and will address improvements for transit riders, pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager: Update – National Walking Day planned walks (see the [website](#)):

The speaker promoted the ambitious WalkArlington plans for National Walking Day on April 9: five different walks, from 10:30 AM through 7 PM: National Landing, Roosevelt Island, Art in Rosslyn, Walking with your Dogs to the County Animal Shelter, and a Pizza crawl in Ballston. Preregistration is required.

Ms. Dallao is also planning a walk for pedestrian safety training with Dan Nabors – a different and fun way to share this important information. Stay tuned for details Also stay tuned for word on their Platinum Level Walk Friendly City application.

PAC member A. Walker gave a quick update on the County prototype Walking School Bus project that will initially match older pedestrians with Oakridge Elementary School children on safe walking routes to school. The initial program, starting in April, will use volunteers who will commit to walking with the children once/week. Fliers for the program will be available at the National Walking Day walks.

Elizabeth Gallagher: Strategy Session – for [Budget/CIP](#):

The Chair explained the difference between the annual operating budget and the CIP, which is usually a 10-year budget, but not during Covid. The currently planned 10-year CIP is the first 10-year CIP since Covid started. The operating budget has already been proposed, so it's too late for the PAC to send suggestions. But now is a good time to send PAC suggestions for the CIP budget, which will be presented in May. Members noted that the best strategy is to focus the request to 2-3 key items. Knowing which programs have funding and which are at risk would be helpful – but we do not know. In prior years, the PAC has supported NCS, WalkArlington, Vision Zero, street lights, and MTP Master Plan updates. The Chair asked N. Hunter about PRC budget advocacy; he said they do discuss specific park plans in their recommendations. T. Kornes talked about the increasing need for lush green and forested streets (in the median, landscaping zone and other places).

L. Gerber encouraged us to sort our ideas using Jam Board, and she volunteered to enter our suggestions and help us vote on them and score them. We had 9 items – with 3 clear winners: Vision Zero, supporting sidewalk construction and repair (with tie-ins with WalkArlington and NCS), and supporting the Army-Navy Country Club bike-ped trail. Providing support to develop “green ribbons” was also popular. The Chair said she would draft a PAC CIP letter in the next couple weeks and submit for PAC approval at the April meeting.

PAC Business and Other Updates:

Approval of draft [February 9 PAC meeting minutes](#):

- Moved, seconded, and approved without objection by PAC members present.

February 7 BAC meeting: The PAC Vic Chair briefly reported on the February 7 BAC meeting: L. Gerber presented a detailed analysis on the status of the implementation of the Bicycle Element metrics. County is making progress, and much work remains! Captain Kim, ACPD Special Operations, responded to submitted questions from the BAC. Even though the ACPD no longer has an officer specifically dedicated to bike-ped safety issues, ACPD officers still work closely with Vision Zero staff on bike-ped safety and Captain Kim's presentation provided important and useful information. The PAC may want to invite him to a future meeting.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 7 P.M. Watch the PAC page for details on the April meeting.