

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS
Wednesday, May 11, 7PM
Draft Minutes

Attendees: Eric Goodman, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Jim Feaster; Eric Goldstein; Tom Korn; Andrea Walker; Chris Yarie; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager
Guests: Jay Corbalis, JBGS; Alexander Cumana; Neal Hunter, PRC; Eric Malpeli; Alister Watson, CSPC

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests. He announced that Lizzy Gallagher, the PAC Chair, had just had a baby boy, so he (Eric, not the baby) was serving as Chair for this PAC meeting. The PAC sends best wishes to Lizzy and her new family and awaits Lizzy's return to the PAC when she is ready. There were no public comments.

Pamela Van Hine, PAC Recording Secretary: Update on the [VDOT Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Phase 2 Study – PIM](#) ([comments](#) due May 20)

The speaker highlighted the key points from VDOT's first Public Information Meeting (PIM), on April 28, for Phase 2 of their Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Study. She recapped that the final recommendation from Phase 1 was to bring Route 1 down to grade at both 15th and 18th. The VDOT proposed streetscape for Route 1 at 15th has 7 11' wide travel lanes, including left turns lanes; the proposal at 18th Street has 6 11' wide travel lanes, with no left turns. [During Phase 2](#), VDOT proposes to update traffic counts, develop its TDM plan, hold meetings with stakeholders and the general public, consult and plan for the relocation of existing bus shelters on 18th, study the impact of reducing the maximum speed limit on Route 1 in Arlington to 25 MPH, propose improvements to the intersection of Route 1 and 23rd, plan the building-to-building ROW layout for Route 1, and propose and consider several options for creating safer bike-ped passages across Route 1 at 18th Street.

During the April 28 meeting, VDOT showed two proposals for improvements to the intersection of Route 1 at 23rd (with and without bike lanes on 23rd). The primary VDOT presentation, however, was to show several variants for creating a safe bike-ped passage across the proposed at-grade intersection of 18th and Route 1: VDOT pedestrian bridge, a long bike-ped bridge, a tunnel, and a VDOT Dutch underpass on the north side of 18th. Ms. Van Hine noted the pros and cons of these options and that the Livability 22202 Route 1 Working Group proposal for a bike-ped Woonerf and People before Cars proposal to modify the existing Marriott tunnel were not presented during the PIM. See the VDOT PIM [recording](#) and [slide deck](#) for details. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Van Hine recommended that the PAC send the County Manager a letter reiterating the PAC's support of the [September 23, 2022 joint BAC-PAC letter](#), with caveats and clarifications added. She had emailed a draft of her proposed letter prior to the meeting.

Discussion: Attendees overall agreed with the speaker's analysis, including that many of the proposed designs over and under Route 1 would not be convenient for many cyclists and pedestrians. Attendees also raised gathering support from other groups, such as the BAC, TAC, and DAC. J. Corbalis noted that People before Cars could be a relevant partner as they strongly support bike-ped safety as a primary objective, though they believe that the at-grade crossing is the safest solution (with additional safety features added).

- Moved, seconded, and approved without objection by PAC members present: The PAC approves sending a letter to the County Manager reiterating support for the joint BAC-PAC letter of September 23, 2022, with caveats and clarifications described in the draft proposed letter and with additional minor editorial changes as needed.

David Patton, PAC staff/Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner DES/DOT: [ANCC Trail Connector](#) ([Comments](#) due May 22)

Using the slide presentation from the public engagement session on April 27, the speaker reviewed the stalled history, need for the project, the two alternative proposals presented, and next steps. Note that the construction contract must be awarded no later than March, 2032, or the public use easement may lapse (see prior CIP 2019 E-79). This trail connection is a missing link between the 22202 neighborhood and neighborhoods along Columbia Pike, including for students attending Hoffman-Boston and Gunston. The negotiated public easement is on the edge of the Army-Navy Country Club property; the available width is about 30', and the grade is quite steep. The space is currently unimproved land with some trees. County staff have proposed two alternative trails: Concept 1: High Walls + Steep Trails, Concept 2: Stairs + Runnel. See the [preliminary alternative graphics](#) and the public engagement [recording](#) and [slides](#) for more details. PAC discussion

addressed steepness of trail, potential use of trail, and challenges for cyclists with larger bikes, pedestrians with impairments, and safety – many of these issues were also raised during the [public engagement](#).

Eric Goodman, PAC Vice Chair: Fire Department Requirements for Street Space – Report from BAC meeting presentation

The speaker, who is our liaison to the Bicycle Advisory Committee, briefly reported on the presentation by County Fire Department staff on fire department requirements for street space. The BAC asked the Fire Department to attend because the BAC was concerned that several recent protected bike lane projects had been complicated by conflicts between safe bicycle facility design requirements and fire department street space requirements. The BAC had prepared 5 key questions that they sent to the Fire Department staff prior to the meeting. Among other topics discussed: a 20' requirement for emergency vehicles, how bike bollards and too high curbs can damage emergency equipment, and how County guidelines are set by Virginia legal requirements and national guidelines. See the [BAC May 2 Meeting Recording \(9' – 57'\)](#) to watch this important discussion, and check out this [SUSMO campaign](#). PAC meeting attendees asked pertinent questions; we may want to address the pedestrian impact of fire department regulations at a future meeting.

Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager: WalkArlington Update

Don't miss our upcoming walk, Walk & Learn: Street Design with a Transportation Engineer, featuring Dan Nabors, on May 25, with participation from Alli Henry, Community Planning Director for the Rosslyn BID. Find more information and register through [this link](#). WalkArlington is also providing volunteer support to the John M. Langston Citizens Association for a walking tour of Halls Hill on May 14 (note that this event was postponed because of weather but will be rescheduled in June or July). We are also partnering with the Columbia Pike Partnership and the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington on a Juneteenth Black Heritage Walk on Sunday, June 19. Details to come. Finally, we are partnering with BikeArlington on a trail cleanup of the W&OD Trail near Barcroft Community Center on the morning of Saturday, July 9. Separate from events, we are researching possibilities for another big program in the fall. It may be a refreshed 8-Week Walking Challenge, or it may be something entirely different! We have not heard anything one way or the other on our Platinum Walk Friendly Communities application. Still nothing to report!

PAC Business

Approval of April 13, 2022 Draft PAC meeting minutes:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aOulGvbnQi836cWYM5uED_lkjTr7gizmyF--G456-Q/edit?usp=sharing

- Moved, seconded, and approved without opposition from PAC members present: The draft April 13, 2022 PAC minutes are approved as submitted.

Other Business and Other topics of interest: Vision Zero (and Open House), CIP, Sidewalk Inventory follow-up, TOSAS

We briefly discussed holding a future joint BAC-PAC to discuss Route 1 plans with VDOT staff. Ms. Walker reminded attendees that additional volunteers are still needed for the Walking Bus project.

Other topics of interest noted above are not yet ready for detailed discussion.

The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM. The next PAC meeting will be held on June 8, 2022 at 7PM. Watch the PAC page for more details!