

## Arlington County Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Virtual / Online Meeting

Monday, April 6, 2026, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, TEAMS platform

### Attendance

**BAC members:** Cynthia Palmer (Chair), Aaron Schuetz, Mike Hanna, Eric Goodman, Andrew Martin, Dana Bres (Vice Chair), Ryan Traher

**DES staff:** Elwyn Gonzalez

**Others:** Randy Swart, Pamela Van Hine, Kevin O'Brien (WABA), Brendan McGonigle (Avride)

### Welcome and Introductions

- Elwyn opened the meeting and passed facilitation to Chair Cynthia Palmer.
- The Committee compiled a list of topics and questions to prepare for a future meeting with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) staff. Key themes identified by Committee members:
  - Safety treatments and Vision Zero tools along arterial roads
  - Status updates of the Route 1 project and Langston Boulevard STARS study
  - Responsibilities and funding for trails, including the Custis Trail and the Arlington Boulevard Trail
  - Perceived maintenance issues particularly related to snow clearing on arterial roads
  - Processes for reporting and resolving issues on VDOT-maintained roads
  - Equity in funding and staffing attention for bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure
  - Tolling operations on I-66
  - Autonomous vehicles and future roadway design considerations
- Members emphasized the need for clarity on VDOT processes, accountability, and interagency coordination.
- Next steps:
  - Members will finalize discussion topics and invite VDOT staff to an upcoming meeting this year.

### Avride Personal Delivery Devices (PDDs)

Brendan McGonigle with Avride presented an overview of the Company's autonomous delivery robots and proposed deployment in Arlington. Highlights included:

- Robots are Level 4 autonomous, primarily sidewalk-based (not in bike lanes or travel lanes)
- Average operating speed on Arlington streets will be approximately 2–3 mph
- Designed to yield to pedestrians and comply with crosswalks per state laws
- Sensors on each robot include lidar, cameras, and ultrasonic sensors
- Robots operate in a defined service area (primarily around the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor) and avoid narrow sidewalks

- Operations team include local staffing for maintenance and monitoring, and devices will be stored in public garages in paid spaces
- Data privacy protections include blurring faces and vehicle license plates

Committee discussion topics:

- Pedestrian safety (including children, pets, and mobility devices)
- Sidewalk width constraints and the lack of sidewalks in some parts of Arlington
- Interactions with signalized and unsignalized crosswalks
- Weather limitations and operational shutdowns
- The safety record of robots in other jurisdictions and incidents
- Equity, labor, and impacts to delivery driver employment

The committee noted ongoing concerns about sidewalk capacity and equity impacts and anticipated follow-up discussions with PDD companies.

### **BAC May Bike Ride Planning**

Elwyn introduced the idea of organizing an optional BAC group bike ride with members, to coincide with Bike Month in May. Discussion points included:

- Purpose: informal, observational, and experiential (similar to recent in-person outings along the Custis Trail and in Crystal City)
- Potential routes could include the Crystal City to DCA (CC2DCA) project, the Columbia Pike Bike Boulevards, or other recently completed projects
- Timing: likely a weekend in May; Elwyn will launch a Doodle poll to assess each member's availability
- Participation: primarily BAC members; minimal formal outreach to avoid permitting and escort requirements

General support was expressed, with follow-up planning to occur offline.

### **Letter to County Manager: Bike Lane Delineation and Design Consistency**

Dana presented a draft BAC letter to be sent to the County Manager's Office addressing observed inconsistencies in the selection of bike lane separation treatments across Arlington. Key points from Committee members included:

- The wide variation in material choices (flex posts, curbs, wheel stops, etc.)
- Perceived safety and maintenance issues with current installations
- The letter includes recommendations for:
  - An inventory of existing treatments
  - Evaluation of effectiveness and maintenance needs
  - Development of standardized design guidance

Members discussed perceived safety concerns (visibility, slopes, snow plowing impacts, etc.) and the possibility of BAC volunteer assistance with data collection.

**Action:** By unanimous consent, the BAC agreed to send the letter to the County Manager, with minor edits to express willingness to collaborate with staff.

### **Arlington's Transportation Future Update**

Mike provided an update on recent progress from the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) Advisory Group discussions, including attention for bicycle and micromobility planning:

- Analysis showing the proximity of the proposed bike network to most households in Arlington
- Identification of geographic "gaps" in network coverage
- Proposed new connector routes to address gaps and improve school access
- Introduction of revised street classification framework (arterials, collectors, local streets)

Members raised concerns about:

- Lack of clarity on what specific treatments (ex: protected bike lanes vs. bike boulevards) correspond to new street classifications
- Insufficient focus on intersection safety
- Risk of avoiding politically difficult but necessary policy choices

Additional feedback from the Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) was noted.

### **BAC Business and Announcements**

Elwyn provided updates including from BikeArlington:

- Winter Bike to Work Day event recap
- Bike film screening at Central Library
- Upcoming adult bike education classes
- Bike to Work Day scheduled for May 15

Additional announcements:

- Custis Trail repaving ahead of schedule, Department of Parks and Recreation anticipates completing effort by this Friday, April 10th
- Upcoming Metro service disruptions at the Crystal City and DCA metro stations due to the new Crystal City metro station entrance construction
- Committee members were invited to participate in potential future letters related to CC2DCA.
- Appreciation expressed for recent BAC correspondence on the County CIP discussions.

Chair Palmer adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:01 PM.