

## **Arlington County Bicycle Advisory Committee and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Joint Meeting Notes**

Virtual / Online Meeting

Monday, March 2, 2026, 7:00 – 9:00 PM, TEAMS platform

### **Attendance**

**BAC members:** Cynthia Palmer (Chair), David Ansell, Aaron Schuetz, Eliot Forster-Benson, Mike Hanna, Eric Goodman, Gillian Burgess, Leslie Tierstein, Dana Bres (Vice Chair)

**PAC members:** Ambar Pankaj (Chair), Don Bennett, Pam Van Hine (Vice Chair), Tom Korn, David Earley, Eric Malpeli, Eric Goodman

**DES staff:** Elwyn Gonzalez, Christine Baker

**Others:** Randy Swart, Mary Dallao, Lauren Hassel, Kevin O'Brien (WABA), Peggy Jones

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Elwyn Gonzalez opened the meeting and passed facilitation to Chairs Cynthia Palmer and Ambar Pankaj.
- Due to the large group and size of the meeting agenda, full introductions were waived, and participants were asked to identify themselves before speaking.

### **Vision Zero Action Plan Update**

Overview:

- Christine Baker, Vision Zero Program Manager, presented a comprehensive update on the Vision Zero program and the draft Action Plan that is currently in the process of being amended as part of its five-year cycle.

Progress and Process:

- The Vision Zero Action Plan update process began in Fall 2025.
- First public engagement occurred in October 2025: approximately 300 feedback forms were collected and the event featured over 1,200 interactions.
- Feedback has informed the upcoming Action Plan Draft, to be released publicly in April 2026.
- The Vision Zero team plans to present to external stakeholder groups, the Arlington County Transportation Commission, and the County Board (for adoption after revisions)

Key Public Feedback Themes:

- Top concerns: Distracted driving, speeding and aggressive driving, dangerous arterial corridors

- DES quick-build traffic safety projects, improvements in school zones, and automated speed enforcement have been cited as initiatives that residents value.
- Communication improvements desired: More visible signage, clearer reporting, ongoing (not seasonal) engagement

#### Draft Action Items:

##### Engineering

- Proactive, data-driven systemic safety improvements and enforcement
- Arterial and neighborhood speed management
- Dynamic crash tracking
- AI use for near-miss analytics

##### Engagement

- Ambassador program for community-led outreach
- Enhanced VDOT partnership
- Year-round Vision Zero outreach instead of single-month events
- Engagement focused on High Injury Network corridors
- Expanded staff training
- Traffic gardens for youth education
- Streamlined reporting for annual crash and progress reports

##### Behavior Change

- Support for older adult drivers
- Address impaired driving (alcohol and drugs)
- Youth traveler education, including micromobility
- Anti-speeding campaigns
- Distracted driving initiatives

##### Plans and Policies

- Safe Routes to School program relaunch
- Construction zone safety standards update to supplement maintenance of traffic (MOT) plans
- Staff training for consistent safety reviews
- Funding protection amid tighter budgets
- 90-day service request response goal
- Improved scooter crash tracking
- State safety legislation advocacy
- Fleet purchasing guidelines for safer vehicles

### Combined Committees' Discussion:

- Snow clearing and pedestrian access
  - Curb ramp blockages forcing unsafe road walking. The suggestion of automatically activating ped signals during major storms was raised
- VDOT roadway crash proportion
  - VDOT maintains approx. 21% of roadway miles in Arlington where about 40% of severe crashes occur
- Arterial street tools are lacking - Need more options beyond signage and committee members cited a desire for national examples as aspirations
- Construction zone concerns
  - Need safer pedestrian accommodations
  - Committee supported elevating construction MOT standards
- E-bike registration
  - Concerns raised about over-regulation and equity impacts
  - Police seeking tools for enforcement around dangerous behavior
  - Members stressed avoiding barriers for low-income and youth riders
- AI data caution
  - Ensure near-miss analysis accounts for "missing data" (ex. people who avoid cycling due to unsafe conditions)

### **Arlington's Transportation Future – MTP Refresh**

Committees reviewing strategies for the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) update:

- BAC and PAC each allowed two strategy recommendations per policy area.
- PAC has completed drafts with broad support from members.
- BAC still collecting input, aiming for internal draft by the end of the week.

Key PAC themes:

- Sidewalk width increases (commercial: 8–10 ft; neighborhood: 5–6 ft)
- Completing sidewalk network
- MOT improvements
- Protected pedestrian zones and accessibility
- Safe routes to key destinations (especially in snow/ice)
- Fixing the current sidewalk maintenance model

### **BAC-PAC Transportation Project Tracking**

Cynthia and Dana met with DES staff on February 12th

Takeaways:

- Committees will receive quarterly advance notice of upcoming projects.
- Comments submitted by BAC/PAC will receive elevated consideration.

- No additional access to project manager staff or internal project info.
- No dedicated staff contact other than Elwyn.

Cynthia and Dana expressed disappointment due to their hope for more substantial advisory involvement as part of individual transportation projects.

Both Committees weighed in on the CC2DCA project as an example. Concerns raised about the Concept Design that was shared recently by DES:

- Long uncovered portions of the bridge, which could discourage use during inclement weather.
- Perceived insufficient access to the Bridge - only one elevator, no escalator, “poor” connection to Crystal Drive
- The perceived need for integration with VRE’s southern entrance work
- Committees are encouraged to submit comments to Elwyn and David Patton by May 1, 2026.

### **BikeArlington and WalkArlington Updates**

Upcoming Events:

- Winter Bike to Work Day: March 13
- Spring bike education classes (Learn to Ride, Skills, Road Riding)
- Group rides in National Landing, Ballston, and around the Arlington Loop
- Film screening: Pearls of Peace featuring Lynne Salvo, the Northern Virginia resident who became the oldest woman to cycle across Europe – (March 26th at Central Library)
- Bike to Work Day is on May 15 with multiple Arlington pit stops
- WalkArlington planning spring events and updating walkabout guides

### **FY 2027 County Budget Discussion**

Key points flagged:

- Police proposing to contract out parking enforcement. Committee members expressed concerns about enforcement gaps.
- DES budget work session: March 10
- Public hearing: March 24
- BAC/PAC may prepare a joint letter or separate budget letters for April 8th commission comment session.

## **W&OD – Dominion Energy Agreement and Legislation**

### Overview

- Kevin O’Brien, the Virginia Organizer for the Washington Area Bicyclists’ Association (WABA), presented a summary of latest news regarding the new Memorandum of Understanding signed with Dominion Energy after extensive conflicts over clear-cutting of vegetation along the W&OD Trail.
- MOU includes:
  - Restoration commitments
  - Improved notification requirements
  - Better protections for adjacent communities
- Nova Parks satisfied; advocates credited with influencing outcome.

### State Legislation Updates

- Bike Safety Omnibus Bill
  - Idaho/Delaware stop at stop signs
  - Clarifies two-abreast riding on-street
  - Allows people riding bicycles to use Leading Pedestrian Intervals (crossing intersections with the “walk” signal)
- Bike signal faces authorization for dedicated bike signals
- Automated enforcement bills
  - Small expansions possible with more guardrails likely
- E-bike regulation
  - Attempt to heavily regulate e-bikes dropped from consideration
  - Replaced by stakeholder working group to study issues without harming ridership

### **BAC Business and Announcements**

- S George Mason Dr and Four Mile Run Dr Study complete; report pending.
- Metro closures: Weekend closures planned at DCA and Crystal City stations continuing through June 2026; shuttles to be provided.
- CC2DCA public comments due May 1.
- BAC and PAC business
  - February PAC Minutes approved (quorum confirmed).
  - Bike lane delineation study - Dana and Aaron will revisit next month
  - APS vehicle safety meeting postponed but still in planning
  - Request for DES clarification on snow-damaged facility repair process.

### **Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

The next BAC meeting is scheduled for April 6 at 7:00 pm on Microsoft Teams.