

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 7 P.M. – 9 P.M.

This meeting was recorded – see [Appendix](#), which also includes speaker slide decks

Minutes – Approved with edits, July 14, 2021

Attendees: Eric Goldstein Chair; Eric Goodman, Vice Chair; Jim Feaster; Elizabeth Gallagher; Andrea Walker; Chris Yarie; David Patton, Bike & Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager

Guests: Speakers: Lieutenant Stephen Clark, Special Operations, Special Operations, ACPD; David Patton; Kristen Lohse, Toole Design Group; Bridget Obikoya, Transportation Planner, DES; Other guests: Emily Emery, Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission (C2E2); Neal Hunter Commission on Park and Recreation (CPR); Henry, Director of Operations, Arlington Active Transportation; Gordon Chaffin

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests, including E. Emery from C2E2. There were no public comments.

**Eric Goldstein: Chair's report:** *Draft PAC letter to the County Manager supporting the County Draft Vision Zero Action Plan:* The Chair briefly reviewed the involvement of Vision Zero staff with the PAC (and vice versa), then asked if PAC members had reviewed the posted draft PAC letter and had any additional comments on it. Hearing none, he asked for a *motion to approve the letter, which was then approved* unanimously by PAC meeting attendees. The Chair will send the approved letter to the County Manager quickly as the Action Plan is going to the County Board for approval on Saturday, May 15. PAC staff will also post the letter on the PAC website.

The Chair noted that he would have additional items to report towards the end of the meeting, time permitting.

**Lieutenant Stephen Clark, Special Operations, Arlington County Police Department: Update:**

His Role with PAC: Ltc Clark began his presentation by talking about how his participation with the PAC will be different from prior Special Operations officers and will no longer focus on crash data. Ltc Murphy's data interpretation skills were unusual and not typical of his fellow officers. The Vision Zero team is now handling crash data gathering and analysis. The County wants to speak with one voice on crash evaluations for consistent messaging.

Ltc Clark then answered the questions that the PAC Chair sent to him before the meeting:

- *General Update/Impact of Covid:* The ACPD has been fully operational, has implemented strict Covid-19 precautions, and has used technology (e.g., online reporting) to increase efficiency.
- *Strategic Restructuring:* The ACPD has 375 approved positions, of which 340 are currently filled, but only 303 are fully functional. The County continues to actively recruit the highest quality new officers, but numbers of officers are still down with retirements.
- *Covid and Traffic Enforcement:* Traffic enforcement was curtailed, but officers have started participating in safety programs again, such as the Street Smart campaign and Cinco de Mayo. They issued 161 citations for traffic violations (speeding, failure to yield).
- *(un) Open Streets:* Whether to open streets or not is a DES/County Manager decision, not the ACPD. However, officers are always ready and able to support whatever is proposed. D. Patton commented on speed management and the potential role of the Vision Zero program.
- *New Traffic Control Staff:* Six new traffic control specialist (not sworn officers) positions were approved (1 supervisor, 5 specialists), who will be part of the Special Operations staff and do much of the work done by PSAs and other responsibilities, e.g., speed monitoring, traffic directing, help when crossing guard is not available, and multimodal education and enforcement. The Chair asked how to report illegally parked vehicles on sidewalks, and Ltc Clark said to call to report it, although enforcement is challenging.
- *Police Practice Group:* Pedestrian enforcement: New technology helps and is a force multiplier to

increase officer efficiency. The traffic analysis position is no longer needed in the ACPD as it's now part of Vision Zero. Officers still involved in student education for safe transportation behavior.

- Other comments and questions:
- The Vice Chair asked how officers are working with TE&O to improve road design: Ltc Clark said they report their observations from high crash sites (part of Vision Zero toolbox) and how to encourage self-enforcing behavior.
- The Chair asked for recommendations for new Virginia legislation – Ltc Clark noted that Virginia recently approved the expansion of photo red light enforcement, but that photo speed enforcement, currently just at schools and construction sites, should be expanded to cover more situations. The speed systems are mobile and can be moved around, thus encouraging everyone to drive more slowly everywhere. They can also be monitored remotely, which increases officer efficiency and makes the use of these cameras less obvious to drivers. We also need more local control of all-way stops.

**David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner, DES, and Kristen Lohse, Toole Design Group: Arlington County Trails Wayfinding project:** (see slide decks in Meeting Appendix)

D. Patton began the presentation with a review of the history of the County's wayfinding system, which has focused on wayfinding for our trail system. Current signage is often too text-heavy, too complicated, too intrusive, too shiny, too easily damaged, and too hard to maintain in good repair. However, sign content has been saved in GIS files, making updates easier, and the overall system is a good place to start.

K. Lohse, the wayfinding project consultant, then gave an overview of the planning process for an updated wayfinding system followed by a review of their practical and aspirational benefits. The key steps that a trail user needs from a wayfinding system are orientation & planning, decision making (where do I turn), confirmation of being on the correct path, and recognition of the final destination. She then showed how different types of signs provide different types of information for each step. Design goals include connecting places; enabling users to keep traveling along; keeping information simple, consistent, predictable; and disclosing information as needed. The system must be designed for first time route users of all ages and abilities.

Comments:

The Chair commented that better signs are needed at key trail connections, such as at Lubber Run Trail and W&OD. D. Patton notes that the County plans to add them. Several people commented on the Arlington Loop needs better promotion, better signage. D. Patton noted that 4 different jurisdictions manage these 4 separate trails. N. Hunter suggested better public engagement, and that signage for parks should be included in a cohesive plan design. D. Patton acknowledge that the wayfinding for trails was just part of a much larger County-wide system. Using technology on signs to help users find information on their smart phones should be added. D. Patton agreed, and noted that the system needs to work for everyone, including those without smart phones. L. Gallagher requested that corridors add signage to close-by trail networks. Signs need to include additional information, such as local bike repair, food, bathrooms, main roads, even health care! K. Lohse responded yes - we need to capture what is needed.

**Bridget Obikoya, Transportation Planner, DES: Arlington County Parklets:**

Through the proposed parklet program, the County will amend the County code to allow parklets to be proposed and added throughout the county, now that the initial parklet on Oak Street in Rosslyn has proved successful. Staff are setting up guidelines and a system for approving applications and currently reaching out to County groups and community members to promote the program and get feedback on it. The proposal is due to go before the County Board in July. The speaker defined parklets, discussed lessons learned from the prototype in Rosslyn (need to keep them clean, design for accessibility, transparency, safety, each of maintenance).

After her presentation, she answered our questions and comments, including Who will apply (anyone can, BIDs have expressed interest), restrictions on use (e.g., business can apply, but cannot use it exclusively for their business – the parklet remains publicly accessible), differences in regulations between DC (streeteries) and Virginia (can't serve food, though people can bring take out into the parklet). Proposed current program is for

each parklet to occupy two parking spots, and applicants can only request one in each location. Also asked: how will you measure success (parklets will be studied for many factors; crashes should not be an issue however because of their safe design). How will equity be ensured – will geographic distribution be studied as well? Can Parking Day applications be updated to exclude the requirement for liability insurance (not at this time). See the speaker's slide deck in the Meeting Appendix for more details.

**Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager: WalkArlington Update:**

WalkArlington has received SRTS funding to prepare a StoryWalk for pre-K/Kindergarten children at Campbell Elementary School. The pages from the chosen book, *Snail Crossing*, will be mounted and covered and placed along the walking route for the initial June 7 walk. The project can be moved around to other schools, and the project includes a little library with relevant books and materials on safe walking and biking. Planning continues for walks and events in post-Covid time, and the 8-Week Walking Challenge is doing well.

**PAC Business:**

- *Approval of Draft Minutes from April 14, 2021 PAC meeting:* A motion was made and seconded to approve the submitted, revised minutes, and the minutes were approved unanimously by PAC members present.
- *Chair's Report (continued):* The Chair highlighted several new County programs available through the RACE program: [Toolkits for Conversations on Race & Equity](#), the [Race and Ethnicity Dashboard](#), and the [DRE Together Partner Toolkit](#). He also encouraged PAC members to check the [Engage Arlington](#) website for important upcoming opportunities to provide feedback, including an upcoming PSMP implementation meeting, planning for the PenPlace open space, the Lubber Run Bridge Replacement project, the Lee Highway planning study, the Columbia Pike ground story uses, and an Ohio Street Safety Project Community Meeting.
- *Updates from PAC Members as time permits:*
  - [Pershing Drive GLUP Study](#) (Jim Feaster, PAC Representative): J. Feaster reported that the draft plan is complete, but no further PAC action is needed until a developer has an actual proposal, which he does think is imminent.
  - *MUTCD Update* – Comments are due Friday, May 14: The Chair, Vice Chair, and staff all commented on the importance of the MUTCD in determining infrastructure design that impacts pedestrian safety and comfort and the importance of everyone sending in comments. Reviewing relevant pages from reputable organizations such as NACTO, Transportation for America, and America Walks may be helpful in preparing comments.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:01 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be virtual joint BAC-PAC meeting, on Monday, June 7, at 7 P.M. VDOT will make a presentation on the Route 1 Multimodal Improvement study and the County Manager has asked for suggestions for Virginia legislation proposals. Watch the PAC page and the PAC Google Group for details.