

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Virtual Meeting via Microsoft TEAMS. Wednesday, January 12, 2022 7PM

Minutes (approved as submitted, February 10, 2022)

Attendees: Eric Goldstein, Chair; Eric Goodman, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; Elizabeth Gallagher; Tom Kornis; Chris Yarie; David Patton, Bike & Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager

Other attendees: Neal Hunter, PRC Liaison; Zack Gold (North Arlington); Eric Malpeli (Langston Boulevard area); Diego Murcia-Rojas (County urban forestry employee); Kevin Saucedo-Broach (Del. Lopez Chief of Staff); Hung Truong (Shirlington Urban Planner)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests. Attendees introduced themselves. Public attendees were encouraged to comment throughout the meeting. The Chair had no report.

Election of Officers: Elizabeth Gallagher was nominated as incoming Chair; Eric Goodman was nominated to continue as Vice Chair; and Pamela Van Hine was nominated to continue as Recording Secretary. All nominations were seconded, and all positions were unanimously approved by PAC members present. The PAC thanked Eric Goldstein, the outgoing Chair, for his excellent leadership, and congratulated the new officers. After the election, Ms. Gallagher chaired the rest of the meeting. She thanked everyone for their support, and she looks forward to working collaboratively with Team PAC on key issues of mutual interest.

Motion: Moved, seconded, and approved unanimously by PAC members present: Elizabeth Gallagher as incoming Chair; Eric Goodman as Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine as Recording Secretary.

Snow Removal: D. Patton reviewed the history of County snow removal and its challenges. Although the County updated its [snow removal guidance](#) after poor management of severe storms several years ago, effective enforcement is lacking and citizens have challenges reporting problems through the [Snow Issue Form](#). J. Armstrong began the discussion with comments on general conditions, specific problems, and photos. PAC members and guests comments included: In general, sidewalks were cleared reasonably well and in a reasonable amount of time. However, sidewalks around some County parks were not cleared sufficiently, and snow plow operators apparently pushed snow back onto pedestrian ramps, curb cuts, intersections, crosswalks lanes, and pedestrian refuges. Traveling by foot or by bike was difficult for everyone and impossible for our most vulnerable users – the frail, the elderly, the very young, and those with disabilities. Attendees found the County Snow Issue Form challenging to use because it was only open a short time and alternative ways to report problems were not available. Finally, although County trails were relatively cleared, the non-County trails (e.g. Mt. Vernon Trail, W&OD) were not. Bridges on these trails were especially dangerous. E. Goldstein cited the Rosslyn BID plan and [map](#), which uses Rosslyn BID Ambassadors to help with cleanup. P. Van Hine noted the [2016 PAC letter](#) to the County Manager about the poor management of the “snow mountains” that plagued us at that time. The letter and photos are at the end of these PAC minutes from February, 2016.

Recommendations and next steps: PAC members want to send a letter to the County Manager about snow removal problems, highlighting points listed above, but also stressing that we need clear streets, sidewalks, and trails to support active transportation and commuting and a car-free diet. The PAC also acknowledges that the County has higher priorities for plowing and clearing through Phase 2, but encourages the County to keep the Snow Report Form open after the storm, so that citizens can continue to report problem areas. PAC members want to send a separate joint letter with the BAC as well. P. Van Hine suggested using the 2016 PAC letter, cited above, as background and model for new PAC comments. D. Patton reminded the PAC that PAC recommendations go to (and through) the County Manager and that it would not be appropriate to contact NPS and NoVa Parks directly. He promised to confirm who the current County DES staff person responsible for snow removal and talk with him. He will also explore ways to raise issues about non-County trails.

Transportation Camp DC 2022 (Eric Goodman, Pamela Van Hine): They reviewed some of the history of Transportation Camp DC. Check out the main [Transportation Camp page](#) for details on what it is and how it works. The DC Transportation Camp, tied in with the national TRB meeting, routinely drew in more than 400 participants

in pre-Covid times. This year, the second virtual DC Camp, only drew about 160 attendees, and many proposed sessions were canceled. But it's still a great meeting, and a great education bargain (\$10 to attend all day). It's a great forum to learn what's new in all areas of transportation and interact with transportation experts from all over the world. P. Van Hine's favorite quote from Camp DC 2022 was "Move at the speed of trust" – related to the many sessions this year on building trust in communities of all types. She will send PAC members her links from Camp DC 2022, including for StreetLight data on biking and the Smart Growth America Dangerous by Design project.

WalkArlington Update (Mary Dallao, WalkArlington Program Manager): Ms. Dallao briefly described the history and purpose of WalkArlington (see [About Us](#)). She then updated the PAC on recent plans, including a winter walk series, full moon and vernal equinox walks, a photowalk in Rosslyn, a walk for office workers, and stargazing walks with staff from the David M. Brown Planetarium. She reminded the PAC that National Walking Day is April 9 – stay tuned for County plans. Finally, staff are applying for Platinum status as a [Walk Friendly Community](#) (Arlington is currently Gold).

Reports from PAC representatives on other groups:

D. Patton circulated a spreadsheet with contact information on PAC members and their current activities. He asked all members to check the sheet to ensure it was accurate and to send him any updates to the listings.

Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) (Ian Blackwell, Pamela Van Hine): P. Van Hine explained what the SPRC is and why it's PAC participation is important. SPRC members discuss the details of upcoming office, retail, and residential development plans, including their sidewalks and walking routes through their sites. Some of these projects are huge, such as [PenPlace](#), and some are tiny, such as the [Garrison Residence](#).

Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission (Elizabeth Gallagher): The NCSC advises the County Board on the development and implementation of the County Neighborhood Complete Streets Program. In conjunction with support staff and others, the NCSC assists with project selection criteria, project prioritization, public outreach, opportunity for public participation, and public traffic safety education, as well as advocate for program funding. See the Function & Scope section of the [NCSC Charter](#) for more information.

Vision Zero External Stakeholders (Eric Goldstein, Eric Goodman): The nationally-recognized [Vision Zero Network](#) defines Vision Zero as, "a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all." The [External Stakeholder Group](#) works closely with the Internal Stakeholder Group to develop and implement the County's Vision Zero Action Plan. Of note, the draft Vision Zero Draft [Multimodal Engineering Safety Toolbox](#) has been released. A virtual Community Engagement will be held February 1; deadline for comments is February 15.

Langston Boulevard Alliance (Tom Korns): LBA is working with the County to create a more economically vibrant and walkable corridor. LBA and the PLB team hosted neighborhood meetings and walking tours for all 5 planning areas. Plan proposals and next steps are expected soon.

Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices (ACTC): In Patrick Kenney's absence, John Armstrong, who is also an ACTC member, gave a brief update. Current discussion topics include starting and ending times for schools, which impact all modes of transportation.

Clarendon Sector Plan Update (John Armstrong): The community has pushed for improved pedestrian infrastructure (see [comment grid](#)). Sector may lose green space by fire station, but gain new green space on Fairfax Drive parking lot. Megablocks are a continuing challenge. N. Hunter noted that plans for the fire house may have changed.

VDOT Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Project Task Force/[CC2DCA](#) Stakeholders (Pamela Van Hine): The County CC2DCA project, which is developing long-term plans to provide a bike-ped connection between Crystal City and DCA, is in early stages of the NEPA process. Watch for more public engagement opportunities. The VDOT Route 1 project has completed Phase 1 and posted a detailed final report and appendices on its website. Phase 2 will start soon. To see an update and ask questions, plan to attend the upcoming Crystal City Civic Association meeting on Wednesday, January 19. Register through the [CCCA website](#).

Transportation Commission (TC)(Chris Yarie): The TC, which reviews County, private development, and other transportation projects and programs and then makes recommendations to the County Board, is relatively quiet

right now. The general budget, CIP, Vision Zero, and new private development plans will keep TC busy soon. The speaker noted work on creating free transfers between ART buses and Metro and considerations on how to spend I-66 tolls.

[Commission on Aging](#) (CoA) (Jim Feaster): The speaker noted that he is no longer a member of the CoA because of their term limits. He recommends that Andrea Walker, who is a current CoA member, be our new liaison. However, he continues to be an active member of the [CoA Transportation Safety and Accessibility Committee](#), which does not require CoA membership to join! He reminded us of the alignment of CoA and PAC goals for safe, comfortable, accessible pedestrian infrastructure for people of all ages and abilities.

[Bicycle Advisory Committee](#) (BAC) (Eric Goodman): The BAC, the PAC's sister committee, also reports to and gives recommendations to the County Manager. The PAC and BAC have worked closely together in recent years on issues of mutual interest such as trails, Vision Zero, and specific projects. We hope to continue to strengthen our relationship in the coming year. The speaker noted specific challenges that came up in the BAC January meeting (see [video](#)).

Ideas for Future Meeting Topics and Joint Meetings: The Chair led a general discussion of ideas for future PAC meeting topics and joint meetings with other groups. These are listed in no particular order. Next steps include prioritizing topics, finding speakers who can commit to presenting, and coordinating with partners for joint meetings. D. Patton will investigate plans to update the MTP, including how to incorporate much needed updates to the Pedestrian Element. Keep sending the Chair your ideas!

Topics of Interest: Budget, CIP, floating island bus lanes, MOT plans, MTP Pedestrian Element update, snow removal, speed cameras (and other ways to slow traffic), tactical urbanism, TE&O projects/programs, TOSAS, Vision Zero, Walk Friendly Community.

Joint Meetings: BAC-PAC; BAC-PAC-CPR; DAC.

Approval of Minutes from PAC meetings on October 13, 2021 and December 8, 2021:

Motion: The minutes from the [October 13, 2021](#) and [December 8, 2021](#) PAC meetings were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved by attending PAC members.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:59 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 7 P.M. Watch the [PAC page](#) for details on the January meeting.