

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 7 P.M.

Minutes, Unanimously approved by quorum of PAC members, November 9, 2023

YouTube Meeting Recording: https://youtu.be/lwk-q_goWwg

Addendum: Charter Revision Sliddeck and draft revised PAC Charter (David to add) ; [FOOD Sliddeck](#)

Attendees: Elizabeth Gallagher, Chair; Eric Goodman, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Eric Goldstein; Patrick Kenney; Tom Korn; Eric Malpeli; Andrea Walker; Chris Yarie; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, Program Director for Active Transportation/Acting WalkArlington Program Manager

County staff presenters: Valerie Mosley, Bureau Chief, Transportation Planning and Capital Projects Management; Brett Wallace, Senior Urban Designer, Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD); Jeremy Hassan, Chief Operating Engineer, Sewers & Streets, Water, Sewer and Streets

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. and welcomed PAC members and staff. The Chair had no formal report, and no members of the public attended.

Valerie Mosley, Bureau Chief, Transportation Planning & Capital Projects Management: [PAC Charter](#): Introduction of Proposed Revisions

The speaker is coordinating revisions to the Charters of the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC), and Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) to update them and bring them in alignment with each other and with current County meeting and membership guidelines, including addressing diversity, equity, and civility issues. The PAC purpose and scope are refined, a Vision Statement is added, and membership and leadership roles are revised. Membership now has a 10-year continuous membership maximum. A key part of the three new charters is an obligation to meet together at least once a year.

PAC comments:

- Vision statement is not visionary.
- Need to include reciprocal interactions with, access to, and roles and responsibilities of the County Manager to the PAC.
- Needs to emphasize Vision Zero (it's not even mentioned)
- Role of PAC involvement is much broader than "implementing the pedestrian components" of the MTP. The PAC has provided input into many of the specific plans and elements of the evolving [County Comprehensive Plan](#). Need more details on our many roles in County planning.
- Importance of liaison relationships with the Transportation Commission, Planning Commission, Disability Advisory Commission, Commission on Aging, and the Park & Recreation Commission needs to be included and formalized.
- Term limits for officer positions need to be specified.

Next steps: D. Patton will post the proposed revision, the current charter (marked up with proposed changes), and the speaker's sliddeck. Please send your comments to either D. Goodman or P. Van Hine, who will compile them and submit them to the speaker before the 30-day comment period is over. PAC members will discuss and vote on the proposed revised charter at the November 9 PAC meeting.

Brett Wallace, Senior Urban Designer, Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD): Temporary Outdoor Seating Areas (TOSA) Update

The Covid-inspired County [TOSA regulations](#), which provide a way for restaurants to offer outdoor dining, have been extended to February, 2023. County CPHD staff are working with other key departments, restaurant owners, and the community on designing pathways to [FOOD](#) – the Future of Outdoor Dining – as a permanent outdoor dining experience. Staff are currently gathering input on existing TOSAs – what works well and should be kept, and what needs to be changed. Among the issues being addressed are: Competition for sidewalk space (street trees, ped safety, vertical clearance); Privatization of public spaces/plaza; Regulatory review, construction, approval process; Encroachments; Adverse noise impacts (ground level and roof-top); Curb space management (and PUDO); Land use considerations; Parking implications (on street and off street); Building code/fire protection prevention codes; Enforcement Challenges; Site plan implications; and Role of design guidelines. The FOOD Study is in the first of three phases – information gathering – through meeting presentations, virtual [roundtables](#) (10/27 and 11/3), and an [online survey](#) (due November 4). A draft report will be circulated in Phase 2 and submission to the County Board will be in Phase 3.

PAC comments:

- What has worked, not worked (especially for pedestrians)?
- Must be fully ADA-compliant and accessible
- Specify planting requirements: Too often existing plants are puny, struggling, and not effective.
- Plan for space in future developments – avoid Clear Zone of Sidewalks.
- What are data-gathering plans? County is evaluating TOSAs in County as well as reviewing TOSAs in other jurisdictions (e.g. Old Town and New York City).
- Will parking needs become less important over time when more alternatives to driving are readily available?
- Plan for PUDO; use parklets/parking spaces/parking lots as an alternative to sidewalks.

Next steps: Please submit your comments and suggestions to the speaker, complete the online survey, and participate in the roundtables. The speaker may return to the PAC for additional feedback after the draft report is available.

Jeremy Hassan, Chief Operating Engineer, Sewers & Streets, Water, Sewer and Streets: Update on County Sidewalk Inventory, Funding, and Repair

The speaker announced that the approved FY23-32 CIP has funding over 10 years for sidewalk improvements, including hiring a contractor to begin repairs. The Chair reminded the committee that this funding was one of the main PAC recommendations to the County Manager for the CIP. Completing all of the sidewalk work will take about 20 years. In the past, the County was divided into 12 zones, and the County focused on making all repairs needed in one zone at a time. However, this program has not been active in several years. Because so much work is needed all over the County, staff are proposing to provide concrete shaving of sidewalks throughout the County during the first year. Making repairs throughout the County is also an equity issue. These repairs can be made if the overall sidewalk slab is in good repair and the discrepancy from one slab to the next is between 2” and 2.5”. Less than 2” is insufficient space to work with and greater than 2.5” makes the slab too thin and prone to break.

The speaker also displayed a County map of sidewalks that showed the commercial corridor sidewalks in yellow and did not display sidewalks that are federal or state-controlled (e.g. Route 1, airport roads) or private roads. The maintenance of sidewalks along the commercial corridors (including Columbia Pike, RB, and Route 1) are the responsibility of the property owners, not the County. Some agreements are part of site plan conditions, some are part of high density corridors. County enforcement has been problematic, and the County needs to devise a new enforcement plan. The PAC was excited to hear about the sidewalk repair plans and see the map. Unfortunately the map is not publicly available at this time. The Vice Chair thanked the speaker for the extensive sidewalk shaving done in Bluemont.

Mary Dallao, Program Director for Active Transportation/Acting WalkArlington Program Manager: WalkArlington Update

The speaker noted that the current [8-week walking challenge](#) commenced on October 10 and will run through December 5. It’s not too late to sign up! She also announced that the Bike Rock & Roll to School, held today, was a success, with about 300 children participating at Ashlawn. Finally, she stated that the WalkArlington [Walkabouts](#) will be revised and reprinted, with new ones added!

PAC Business & Announcements:

Approval of July and September minutes:

Moved, seconded, and approved without dissension: The [July 13](#), 2022 PAC meeting minutes and the [September 14](#), 2022 joint BAC-PAC meeting minutes.

Update on Vision Zero: D. Patton announced that Christine Baker, who recently returned from maternity leave, sent him an update on the use of LPIs (Leading Pedestrian Interval lights) in Arlington. The County is adding 46 additional LPIs, at HIN sites on major corridors: Columbia Pike, Fairfax Drive, Clarendon Boulevard, Wilson Boulevard, S Four Mile Run Drive. These LPI sites will also post No Right on Red Signs, and she plans to post additional details on the Vision Zero website. Staff will evaluate adding additional LPIs at HIN sites over time. E. Goldstein, who is still representing the PAC on the Vision Zero External Stakeholders group, asked members to send him suggestions on how the PAC has supported the County Vision Zero program in the past year.

Upcoming important events: Don’t forget the FOOD events – see details above.

- [CC2DCA](#): Help continue to plan the bike-ped passage from Crystal City to DCA: attend the next virtual public engagement on October 25 and send in your comments by November 6. CC2DCA is a project that the PAC initially supported as a BID project in 2018.

- VDOT [Route 1 Multimodal Improvements](#) Study: The VDOT Route 1 Study, currently in Phase 2, plans to host their third Public Information Meeting on November 14. Watch the project website and PAC Google Group for further details, pre-register, and plan to attend this critical PIM. VDOT plans to present their findings on lowering the speed limit and creating an effective TDM, as well as updates on the streetscape and 18th Street designs.

PAC volunteer needed for GLUP study: D. Patton asked for a PAC volunteer to represent the PAC at the upcoming LRPC Meeting on October 29 for the [Special GLUP Study for Sunrise Assisted Living](#). After the meeting, both Andrea Walker and Jim Feaster agreed to represent the PAC.

The Chair concurred with the Recording Secretary's suggestion to postpone staff's topical updates until the November meeting so that the PAC could conclude its official business. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 P.M. The next PAC meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, November 9, at 7 P.M. Watch the [PAC webpage](#) for the draft agenda and other information.