

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Virtual Meeting, Wednesday, October 11, 2023 7PM

Minutes, unanimously approved by PAC members present, November 8, 2023

[Meeting recording](#)

Members and staff: Eric Goodman, Acting Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Tom Korn; Eric Malpeli; David Patton, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, Program Director for Active Transportation/Acting Program Manager for WalkArlington

Guests: Matt Jones, National Landing BID; Anita Wallgren

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and offered this icebreaker: What were your favorite WalkArlington events? M. Dallao updated the PAC on upcoming WalkArlington events. During Light Up Arlington on November 1-3, volunteers will give out free bike lights in Rosslyn, at Columbia Pike by the W&OD Trail, and in National Landing, by the Crystal City Connector. On October 24, staff will hold another PAL volunteer recruitment event at the Shirlington Library. There was no Chair report or Public Comments.

David Patton, with comments from Eric Goodman, Pamela Van Hine, and Matt Jones: CC2DCA: The CC2DCA project released its Environmental Assessment and recently completed a public comment period on the Environmental Assessment. CC2DCA is a very exciting project that will provide bike-ped access from DCA to Crystal City. However, all three speakers talked about the multiple challenges that still need to be resolved: the landing at and beyond the VRE station and its connection to Crystal Drive, the still unresolved issues for the landing location and footprint on the DCA end, the exact design and location for the CC2DCA connection to the MVT, and the overall design of the CC2DCA bridge, especially the section over the Parkway.

David Patton: National Park Service: Mount Vernon Trail/George Washington Memorial Parkway South Environmental Assessment: Send your comments in by **October 24!**

- *Trail design improvements needed:* D. Patton reminded the PAC that Arlington County advocated for NPS to apply for and receive significant Commonwealth of Virginia funding for rehabilitating the MVT. Now is the time to plan how to widen the trail to meet future trail users' needs. The trail needs to be wider everywhere, and stormwater also needs to be managed. To protect the sensitive environment, the bridges are made of wood and cannot have harsh chemicals on them. Pay attention to the plans for Gravelly Point, the busiest, most congested, and most conflicted area on the trail. A proposed trail bypass for cyclists and runners passing through would reduce congestion and conflict at this site. The proposed connection between the MVT and the 4MRT is a roundabout; will this relieve the congestion of this popular merge? Dave Goodman posted to the BAC/PAC Google Groups that proposed new AASHTO guidelines recommend a 14' minimum trail widths for multiuse trails, but that a 16' minimum width are actually needed to support both cyclist and pedestrian comfort and safety.
- *Enhancements to the Parkway design:* GW Parkway has a high volume of traffic, equivalent to a major highway. NPS is planning "complete street" designs for much of the parkway, including fewer travel lanes. The goals are to reduce speeding and create safer space for bike-peds while continuing to support vehicular traffic flow on the Parkway.

Eric Goodman and Pamela Van Hine: BAC-PAC Legislative Priorities for 2024: (see link to letter)

Ms. Van Hine reviewed the contents of the draft BAC-PAC letter with legislative priorities for 2024. At the September joint BAC-PAC meeting, BAC and PAC members supported four primary and four secondary priorities for legislation. C. Palmer, the BAC Chair, E. Goodman, the PAC Chair, and P. Van Hine, the PAC Recording Secretary, worked together on the draft letter – and added a fifth new primary priority – supporting funding for WMATA, which is in critical financial condition. At the October PAC meeting, attendees raised a few clarifying questions about the proposed priorities which were resolved.

- *Moved, seconded, approved without dissent:* The PAC members attending the October meeting – and two members who could not attend, but did review the letter, ask questions, and approve it – voted unanimously to approve the BAC-PAC legislative priorities letter and send it to the County Manager.

David Patton and Eric Goodman: Vision Zero Update:

- Vision Zero Mid-Year Progress Meeting, October 19, 7PM: The Chair encouraged everyone to attend this important Vision Zero update. He plans to attend and report back to the PAC on the meeting.
- New Virginia law that drivers must stop for pedestrians at crosswalks: This year Virginia passed new legislation requiring drivers to stop for pedestrians, and the County Board agreed to implement the new law in Arlington. D. Patton checked with D. Nabors and C. Baker on how the County is implementing the new law. County and VDOT staff are replacing the YIELD to pedestrian signs with new STOP for pedestrian signs. Plans for repainting yield pavement markings with stop markings are still being developed. However, the County does not have plans – or sufficient funding – to enforce the new law at this time. Pedestrians are encouraged to report locations where drivers are not stopping, either to TE&O or to the ACPD. To file a report with TE&O, use the Report a Problem app/website, locate the site on the map, then select “Transportation/Safety Investigation” and complete and post your request. To report the problem to the police, complete the form on the ACPD Ongoing Transportation Complaint Enforcement Request page.
- MOT (Dana Bres MOT draft and next steps): D. Bres shared his draft MOT ideas and the September joint BAC-PAC meeting, and members were generally supportive of pursuing MOT issues. Meeting attendees discussed how to move forward with Dana’s current document and fix the problematic County MOT process. Please continue to send feedback to Dana so he can update his MOT draft. D. Patton thought it was appropriate for the BAC-PAC to provide advice on fixing the MOT process and to convene the relevant staff involved with MOT at a joint meeting. The Chair noted that including the DAC was also important because construction sites have huge impacts on mobility for pedestrians with mobility and vision impairments. The BAC-PAC can also encourage additional funding to ensure that MOT staff have the staff and resources that they need to implement an improved MOT program. D. Patton will consult with staff on how to proceed, including with the Vision Zero staff who seem to be taking the lead with the MOT process, e.g. adding a way to report MOT violations to Report a Problem.

PAC business:

- Serve as incoming PAC Chair: E. Goodman announced that the PAC needs a PAC member to volunteer to serve as incoming Chair and asked if anyone was interested. P. Van Hine encouraged E. Malpeli to run; he said he’d consider it.
- Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission: E. Goodman volunteered to attend the NCSC meetings until the PAC has found a permanent volunteer.
- SPRC (Site Plan Review Committee): P. Van Hine reviewed the SPRC process, why it’s important for the PAC to participate, the PAC representative’s responsibilities on the SPRC, and which projects will have upcoming SPRC meetings. The Red Lion Inn will hold its second SPRC meeting on Thursday, October 19. She asked for a volunteer, but no attending PAC member could attend, so she volunteered to represent the PAC. Two other development projects have submitted plans: the Goodwill Site and 1129 N. Utah. She promised to post these upcoming SPRC engagements on the PAC GoogleGroup and encouraged PAC members to volunteer.
- PAC website update: D. Patton described the new web software, implemented for better readability, and how he has populated PAC meeting materials on the page. Nothing will be lost; older materials can be accessed through a link. Please review for missing materials and broken links and let him know what needs fixing.

Future PAC meeting topics:

- VDOT Route 1: VDOT is not ready to meet with the BAC-PAC yet, but will be happy to return to the BAC-PAC when they are ready.
- Vision Zero Update: D. Patton will invite D. Nabors to attend the November PAC meeting for a Vision Zero update.
- APS Safe Routes to Schools and other APS bike-ped safety programs: Kevin Treakle, the TDM Specialist, Arlington Public Schools, attended the October BAC meeting, and the PAC Chair would like to invite him to an upcoming PAC meeting as well. D. Patton suggested that County staff first meet with Mr. Treakle and agree upon topics for discussion.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:01 PM. The next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, November 8 at 7PM. Watch the PAC website for the meeting announcement with draft agenda and login.