

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)

Virtual meeting held via Microsoft TEAMS, February 8, 2023

[Meeting Recording](#): Slide Deck (Mike Collins): 2 Slide decks (Antonio Rossi)

Minutes, unanimously approved without edits, April 12, 2023

Attendees: Elizabeth Gallagher, Chair; Eric Goodman, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Jim Feaster; Patrick Kenney; Tom Korn; Eric Malpeli; Andrea Walker; Mary Dallao, Program Director for Active Transportation/Acting WalkArlington Program Manager; Michelle Stafford, Neighborhood Streets Complete Streets Program Manager (staff liaison for this PAC meeting)

Invited Speakers: Anh Phan, NVRPA; Mike Collins, DES; Antonio Rossi, DES/ACCS

Other guests: Matt Jones, National Landing BID; Brian Shelton, DES intern; Karl Dawson

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and welcomed PAC members, speakers, and guests. She had no formal Chair's report.

#### **Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager, NOVA Parks (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – NVRPA)**

The speaker highlighted recent NVRPA trail activities, especially a new dual-trail on the W&OD Trail in Falls Church, which provides separate, wide, safe facilities for cyclists and for pedestrians. The speaker encourages everyone to visit [the new dual trail](#) and looks forward to working with the PAC on future projects, such as additional [improvements to the W&OD Trail](#). Pedestrians are also encouraged to join [Friends of the W&OD trail, volunteer at NOVA parks, and donate](#).

#### **Mike Collins, Deputy Director, Operations, DES: Overview – High Density Concrete Maintenance (HDCM) Program**

The Chair introduced the speaker, noting that she had asked him to speak as funding to improve sidewalk conditions is a PAC budget priority. The speaker reviewed the history of the two different HDCM programs. Based upon Virginia Code [15.2-2404](#), Arlington County is allowed to “*impose taxes or assessments upon the owners of abutting property for constructing, improving, replacing, or enlarging the sidewalks upon existing streets...*” County Board resolutions in 2000 and 2005 defined High Density zones and both County and property owner obligations to maintain sidewalks. However, the initial program was not always effective, as property owners often balked, and the County had insufficient staff and resources to manage the program. Identifying responsible parties, tracking down complex permit requirements, creating assessment, and following up on cases were challenging. A new approach was approved: Starting with site plans and major site plan amendments approved after 2003, “the Developer agrees to maintain, repair and replace all sidewalks and street trees shown on the approved Civil Engineering Plan and approved Final Landscape Plan, which are installed within the public right-of-way or public easement **for the life of the Site Plan.**” (bold added) ([Standard Site Plan Conditions](#) for High Density Office, Residential and/or Mixed Use Developments 19. Civil Engineering Plan...B. Infrastructure Improvements 19 E. Maintenance of Public Infrastructure.) This new requirement helps ensure developer compliance and County enforcement, although many existing commercial developments predate the 2003 requirement and remain under the older system.

*PAC comments:* How should we report problem sidewalks? Pedestrians are encouraged to report noncompliance through Report a Problem (website or app) or call 703-228-5000 (DES). Reporters do not need to know who is responsible for fixing the sidewalk; County staff can determine and followup appropriately, including providing a temporary repair.

How does enforcement work in both systems? Enforcement is similar; staff are limited; inspection cycle is every 3 years; still challenging to determine ownership.

Can the program be improved? Yes, staff are currently studying how to improve it for everyone.

#### **Antonio Rossi, Capital Bikeshare & Scootershare Planner, DES/ACCS: Update on the County [Shared Mobility Device Program](#) and New Report a Problem Feature**

The County currently authorizes over 2000 e-scooters and 1000 e-bikes through five vendors: Bird, Lime, Link, Spin, and Veo. [Micromobility use](#) has not fully recovered from pre-Covid volume in 2019, though 2022 use was higher than in 2020 and 2021. Program data, including trip data matched to the roadway network defined by Open Street Map, number of trips, trip duration and distance and more, is [available here](#). The County has also recently released a new topic on [Report a Problem](#) to allow users to report misparked micromobiles and ebikes. Look for and select “misparked rental scooter/bike” from the list of “Type of Issue.” Users can add notes and attach photos to their report. Please send the speaker your suggestions.

*PAC comments:* PAC members can share the new RAP for micromobile reporting to encourage its use. Report on completed RAP needs to include more information, such as time the problem was solved.

**Mary Dallao, Program Director for Active Transportation/Acting WalkArlington Program Manager: [WalkArlington Update](#)**

The speaker announced that the updated WalkAbouts are almost ready and that WalkArlington will celebrate National Walking Day (April 15) with Walking Palooza walks: Pizza walk, TDR Island walk, and another one (send Mary your suggestions).

**Michelle Stafford, Principal Planner and Neighborhood Complete Streets Program Manager: FNRP and S. George Mason Drive Multimodal Transportation Study Updates**

- The [Forestry and Natural Resources Plan](#) (FNRP) will replace the current, separate subelements [Natural Resources Management Plan](#) and the [Urban Forest Master Plan](#) in the [Public Spaces Master Plan](#) Element of the County [Comprehensive Plan](#). The FNRP has not been finalized. The draft FNRP is available [here](#). Staff are working on a final draft, based on 2022 public engagement comments and other feedback. Find more information on the public engagement process, results, and draft documents [here](#).
- [S. George Mason Drive Multimodal Transportation Study](#): The community meeting for Phase Three of public engagement for the study, which was originally planned for mid-January, will be moved to late March 2023, following additional internal review of the goals of the study and the concepts developed for the intersections along the corridor. The project team is currently conducting additional analysis of complex intersections along the corridor, particularly on the intersection of South George Mason Drive and South Four Mile Run Drive.

**Elizabeth Gallagher, PAC Chair: SPRC – Role of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

PAC members recommended continuing PAC involvement in the SPRC process, as these commercial projects create significant amounts of critical pedestrian infrastructure. The Chair reviewed the current SPRC appointment process: She is automatically listed as the representative, but another member can substitute if noted greater than 24 hours before the SPRC meeting. PAC members reviewed their recommendations for successful SPRC representation, and T. Kornis recommended that the PAC put recommendations into a document that can be shared with members to encourage participation. Great idea! The Chair asked for thoughts on shared streets, comments were mixed.

**PAC Business:**

- [Minutes of Joint BAC-PAC meeting from January 11, 2023](#) were approved unanimously as submitted.
- *March PAC meeting:* The Vice Chair suggested having a separate meeting from the BAC in March, so the PAC can focus on pedestrian issues. PAC members present unanimously supported holding a separate meeting. Hui Wang, the newly appointed Director of Transportation, will be invited to speak to both groups. Before the meeting, PAC members planned to discuss (online) what issues are important to address with H. Wang.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:53 PM. The next PAC meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Hui Wang, the new Director of Transportation, will share her vision and invite our questions and comments.