

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)

Virtual meeting held via Microsoft TEAMS, April 12, 2023

PAC Meeting Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7Pnvu_HkHY

Minutes, approved unanimously without change, May 10, 2023

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

Invited Speakers: Kevin Treakle, APS TDM Specialist; Jim Richardson, Commission on Aging; Leah Garber; Other attendees: Matt Jones, National Landing BID

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM and welcomed PAC members, speakers, and guests. She had no formal report; no public members desired to speak.

Kevin Treakle, Arlington Public Schools Transportation Demand Management Specialist: Introduction

After retiring from serving in the ACPD for 26 years, Mr. Treakle recently started as the new Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Specialist in the Arlington Public Schools (APS) system. APS combined the positions formerly held by Lauren Hassel, [Safe Routes to Schools](#) (SRTS) Program Coordinator, and Kristin Haldeman. In addition to taking over the SRTS school program, he also will participate on the [Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices](#) (ACTC) and the Joint Committee on Transportation Choices (JCTC). He has been working closely with PAC member Andrea Walker on the [Walking School Bus program](#). He is also using his ACPD experience in reaching out to the PTAs to educate parents on the importance of school transportation safety.

He is also on the HUB committee and is currently evaluating and updating routes for the HUB system which provides transportation for students attending the APS nontraditional schools. Because these students – and the schools - are scattered throughout the County, students need to go to their designated HUB to be taken to their school. Creating an efficient, yet convenient, comfortable and safe system is a challenge.

PAC members and WalkArlington staff expressed their happiness that the speaker has joined APS in these new roles and they offered their help and support as his programs move forward.

Leah Gerber, Project manager: [S. George Mason Drive Multimodal Transportation Study](#): Three key intersections

The speaker quickly reviewed the status of plans for this huge and complex transportation study. The corridor wide analysis and concept development are complete (see [slides](#) 8-32, preferred street segments are on slides 27-32). Note that the route on the east side is a shared use path as the street has no room for protected bike lanes.

Her presentation tonight focused on proposals for three intersections: George Mason Drive at Arlington Boulevard, at Columbia Pike, and at the Four Mile Run Drives (Major and Minor) and W&OD Trail set of intersections. All of these intersections are currently dangerous for bike-peds and on the County HIN. The intersection at Arlington Boulevard has two proposals: one without VDOT bridge rebuilding and a future one if VDOT rebuilds the bridge. (See slides 35-39). The plans for the intersection at Columbia Pike include major pedestrian improvements such as bumpouts and shorter crossing distances. (See slides 40-43). The current conditions at the intersections with Four Mile Run Major, Four Mile Run Minor, and the W&OD Trail in between them are dangerous and confusing to all road users. Vehicular traffic is heavy (commuters, local, and transit), and the trail is popular with bike-peds. Signalization is complicated and frustrating. Local residents dash across these streets to reach shopping, transit, and the new park. Staff studied the feasibility of removing the Minor street, but found it needed to stay because of heavy bus transit on it. Staff are proposing two alternative plans: a more traditional one that improves conditions overall, but still risks conflict among users (see slides 44-46) and a “peanutabout”, a modified roundabout in a peanut shape (see slide 47). The peanutabout does create a safe route for bike-peds, but creates a longer route for bike-peds using the W&OD trail.

PAC Discussion topics included the impact of desired parking needs, including Segment two residents’ need to park their commercially used vehicles, on the overall design and elimination of potential on-street protected bike lanes; Peanutabout – how does it work to keep all users safe, how would it be implemented (as a Capital Project, if people want staff to pursue; meanwhile some improvements to the intersections would be made, including retiming of signals and speed reduction techniques); How did this particular project get prioritized over other needs? (equity and crash history are part of prioritization matrix); How trail signalization phasing works; what are plans to add greenery/trees along the project?

Please send in your comments by Sunday, April 23. The link is here: <https://publicinput.com/sgmdintersections>
Please review slide 48 – proposed new crossings – before completing the survey!

Jim Richardson and Andrea Walker, [Commission on Aging \(CoA\)](#): Collaboration and the CoA Transportation Committee

Mr. Richardson showed slides on how the CoA is structured and which groups they collaborate with frequently, including County DHHS. Transportation for older drivers, more frail pedestrians, and transit access for older adults are important topics for the CoA Transportation Committee. Arlington County is an [AARP Age-Friendly Community](#), so these meetings, as all CoA activities, are run in the age-friendly management system way. Key issues are Transportation safety, accessibility, affordability, clarity (technology, understandable, larger type, language), first and last mile, volunteer drivers, walking school bus, SPRCs (and overlap of housing and transportation), community outreach, and many more. The Transportation Committee meetings are open to the public; they'll notify us about upcoming events. Ideas for potential collaboration with the PAC included TOSAS, sidewalk inventories, and other sidewalk/crosswalk/intersection issues.

PAC comments: How does CoA prioritize which County functions to join (i.e. SPRC participation)? (All CoA members can participate, not just the Transportation Committee members. When an activity has an aging component, CoA will definitely try to participate/provide feedback, e.g. the SPRCs for the Sunrise projects). Pedestrian refuge medians on streets are important for respite for older adults (are they being removed on Langston?) Pedestrian crossing signals need to be adjusted to allow sufficient time for older pedestrians to cross. Both PAC and CoA need to work with the Disability Advisory Commission because of overlapping issues.

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

The speaker updated the PAC on plans for [Walking Palooza](#) on April 15: Three walks: Theodore Roosevelt Island, Safer Streets, and Black Heritage.

PAC Business:

- Approval of [February 8](#) and [March 8 PAC](#) draft minutes: Moved, seconded, and approved without dissent or additional edits.
- SPRC – Continuing need for PAC volunteers to participate (The Chair): The Chair briefly reiterated that lots of SPRCs are “springing up” and we need more PAC members to volunteer to represent the PAC. The Chair has been posting upcoming SPRC projects on the PAC Google Group, so please let her know ones of interest to you. The current process is that the PAC Chair is automatically on the specific SPRC committee, but the PAC can add a different member up to the day before the SPRC meeting. She specifically seeks PAC representatives for the Inn of Rosslyn and the Red Lion Inn. Please volunteer!
- News items: P. Van Hine noted the availability of a new CC2DCA newsletter, with notice for a summertime public engagement. D. Patton elaborated on current CC2DCA plans, including some changes in alignment and details for the different segments. Discussion briefly included the Long Bridge Project bike-ped bridge, but it was after 9PM.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:03. The next PAC meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 10 at 7PM. Watch the [PAC page](#) for details, draft agenda, and logon information.