

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams, Wednesday, April 10, 2024 7PM

[Meeting recording](#)

Approved (with minor edits) May 8, 2024

PAC Attendees: Eric Goodman, Acting Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; Patrick Kenney; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, Director, Active Transportation Programs; Guests: Arlington residents Austin Pearce and N. David Whitehead

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and welcomed PAC members, staff, and guests. He called upon attendees to introduce themselves and comment on their sidewalk concerns. Issues raised included crowding, lacking sidewalks, sidewalks in poor condition, not accessible, root heaves, damaged or poorly designed pedestrian ramps, neighbors resisting new or expanded sidewalks, construction blocking sidewalks, and sidewalks too narrow and/or blocked by utility poles, signs, and other infrastructure. The Chair notes that he hopes that the County's "shaving" of uneven sidewalk connecting edges continues throughout the County. The Chair had no formal report, and guests gave additional comments after their introductions.

N.D. Whitehead gave additional comments on the NSTA site plans. He noted that the sidewalks on the southside of Clarendon Blvd are narrow, with a 3' chokepoint, but the northside ones are currently 8' wide. However, the plans for the loft-style apartments include stoops, steps, and a wall that appear to narrow the sidewalk width significantly. The Chair displayed the streetscape which showed the 8' being disrupted by the stoops/steps, but during the LRPC meeting, the developer planned to reevaluate the design to improve the sidewalk width.

A. Pearce commented on crossing safety - sometimes well-designed, safe, and comfortable; but sometimes not safe. Good sightlines are essential for safe crossings.

Mary Dallao: [WalkArlington](#) Update:

WalkArlington is celebrating walking month (April) with three walks. The first one, with Alexandria Celebrates Women, walked through parts of Alexandria, Arlington, and DC. The second was a Tulip Walk with Friends of Mt. Vernon Trail and Rosslyn BID. This Saturday is a Vision Zero walk in National Landing. The County Board will proclaim April is Walking Month at their April Meeting.

Eric Goodman: Status review of PAC 2024 issues:

The Chair led a review of the status and scheduling of proposed issues that the PAC wished to address in 2024. **The Chair and D. Patton agreed to meet soon to plan when many of these topics could be addressed at future PAC meetings.**

Critical issues from 2023: [VDOT Route 1 Multimodal Improvements](#): The PAC met jointly with the BAC and VDOT project staff during a hybrid meeting on March 13. After the meeting, the BAC-PAC Chairs sent a letter to the County Manager to ask VDOT to expand its Route 1 speed study to address the gap between 23rd Street and Alexandria. The PAC will followup on the status of this letter. Meanwhile, no further actions are needed until VDOT is ready with new information on the project, including the speed study, PIM 5, and a draft final Phase 2 report.

Active transportation for APS students: PAC wants to meet with an APS representative to discuss APS plans for active transportation for students. D. Patton reviewed the history and challenges to collaboration with APS staff, probably Kevin Treacle, and he promised to continue to pursue.

Updating the Pedestrian Element: D. Patton noted that the Pedestrian Element will be incorporated into a new, integrated Master Transportation Plan (MTP). The Chair hopes that the new, compiled and integrated MTP will keep pedestrian issues separate, but if not, that the PAC advisory role will be clear. D. Patton noted that pedestrian safety will be prioritized in the MTP. P. Van Hine explained that having current County guidance for pedestrian infrastructure is critical for advocating for optimal pedestrian infrastructure during the SPRC process. The Chair suggested writing to the County Manager: the PAC understands that the new MTP is being proposed, and it is not clear how pedestrian elements will be integrated and how the PAC will be represented in the development of the new MTP. D. Patton suggested starting with: As your advisors, we recommend that you highlight the role of the pedestrian experience in the County's transportation planning document, the new MTP, and copy all relevant transportation/DES staff from A. Bullock to G. Emanuel.

Attending PAC members supported the letter, and the Chair and P. Van Hine will write.

Keeping pedestrians safe – and visible – after dark: The Chair suggested that everyone has a responsibility to help keep pedestrians safe after dark: pedestrians need to wear more visible attire, drivers need to watch for pedestrians and cyclists, and the County needs safer infrastructure, including better lighting. D. Patton agreed that this is an important topic and suggested inviting streetlight and Vision Zero staff to present updates to the PAC. The Chair suggested hosting a forum, with Vision Zero, streetlight, and WalkArlington staff. P. Van Hine also suggested including the TAC, CoA, and DAC. The Chair suggested having night safety as a topic for a joint public forum with all of these groups (which would also support a recommendation in the new draft PAC charter). J. Feaster noted that the PAC will need a new liaison with CoA, and the Chair noted that we also want a liaison with the DAC.

Partner with DAC, TAC, Commission on Aging (possibly with DAC because of overlapping issues), as well as continue to partner with BAC: The PAC continues to support joint meetings, hopes to plan a forum on transportation safety after dark, and invite several relevant staff and advisory groups. See prior point.

D. Patton noted that driver's education is a state-level activity, under education. The state DMV reached out to him for input for new guidelines for education.

Update from Vision Zero staff on quick build (tactical urbanism) for high-injury network (HIN) sites and updates on tool kit: The PAC has not had an update from the Vision Zero team in quite awhile. This update should include trials of tactical urbanism techniques, such as painting lines on streets to keep drivers on the correct side of the road or using special tape, which is faster and easier

ACPD speaker: The Chair noted that an ACPD officer spoke to the BAC last week, primarily about blocked bike lanes and school zones. If the PAC invites an ACPD officer, what are suggested topics? P. Van Hine suggested red light running, speeding, and not yielding, and she offered to post the question to the PAC GoogleGroup asking for additional suggestions.

Eric Goodman and David Patton: Changing County approach for public engagement for transportation projects:

The Chair led a PAC discussion on how the County appears to have changed how it gathers public feedback and input for transportation projects. As online public engagement has increased through the [six-step engagement process](#), staff presentations to the PAC and other committees has decreased, which has impacted the role of the PAC and other advisory committees. The Chair stressed the importance of advisory committees' early involvement and how the PAC and other advisory committees have helped improve the process and final designs. P. Van Hine suggested putting together a list of projects that were improved because the PAC had separate input and also projects that had no formal engagement with advisory committees. The Chair also noted that staff presentations could encourage better PAC attendance. PAC members present agreed that the PAC should send a letter to the County Manager to address PAC concerns and to encourage and welcome staff presentations. J. Feaster suggested that we need to work closely with County staff. As a first step, D. Patton suggested meeting with the DES Communication staff: Claudia Pors/Katie O'Brien (general communications); Eric Potter/Nate Graham (project specific).

David Patton: Updates and PAC business:

- [PAC membership](#): D. Patton noted the absence of several PAC members in the past year - and the need to determine their PAC status. The PAC needs to write to them to confirm their status. **The Chair and Dr. Patton agreed to draft and send out a letter.**
- [CC2DCA bridge](#): The County will use VHB consultants. Staff met with MWAA recently, and MWAA has identified their new roadway network consultants -a critical decision for CC2DCA work to proceed.
- **Columbia Pike tour**: The Barcroft Apartments redevelopment will have a huge impact on [Columbia Pike redevelopment](#). Susan Finatti is retiring, new staff will be hired, and then it will be a good time to have a presentation on Columbia Pike plans.
- **BonAire Park** is scheduled to have trail improvements and a better trail intersection.
- **Bike-ped counters**: Bike-o-meter is operational again.
- **W&OD trail wayfinding signs** will be added, with permission of NoVa Parks.
- [Report a Problem](#): D. Bres met successfully with Claudia O'Connor who is responsible for the RAP.

Eric Goodman: Future Meeting Topics:

- BAC-PAC joint meeting on the Maintenance of Transportation (MOT) with County Staff: Can't meet in May because key people cannot attend. Monday, June 3, is booked for a hybrid meeting.
- May meeting, Wednesday, May 8: A joint BAC-PAC virtual meeting: Topics TBD, possibly MUTCD and preliminary MOT report.
- Arlington Public Schools transportation representative to address the PAC
- SPRCs explained by Planning Commission representative: D. Patton will contact M. Pfeiffer, the CPHD staff who supports the overall SPRC process.
- TE&O representative to discuss new MUTCD: D. Patton recommends this presentation be part of a joint BAC-PAC meeting,

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:04 PM. The next meeting of the **Arlington County Pedestrian Advisory Committee will take place Wednesday, May 8, at 7 p.m., in a joint session with the Bicycle Advisory Committee.** The meeting will be held on the County's TEAMS platform. Watch the [PAC page](#) for details on the upcoming May and June meetings.