

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)

Joint BAC-PAC virtual meeting via Microsoft TEAMS, 7PM Wednesday, September 11, 2024

[Meeting Recording](#) Slide decks on the Four Mile Run Trail Project and the ACCS Draft Strategic Plan Update are available
Minutes, approved unanimously by PAC members present, November 4, 2024

PAC attendees: Eric Goodman, Acting Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Jim Feaster; Tom Korn; Andrea Walker; Mary Dallao, Director, Active Transportation Programs; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner

BAC attendees: Cynthia Palmer, Chair; Dana Bres, Acting Vice Chair; Eric Goodman; Noreen Hannigan; Steve Offutt; Chris Slatt; Elwyn Gonzalez, Associate Transportation Planner

Speakers: Robert Capper, DPR Capital Asset Manager; Eric Balliet, Transportation Principal Planner; Sarah Crawford, Assistant Director of Transportation; Lisa Kay Schweyer, Foursquare; Tenley Peterson, Planning Commission; Ilana Morof, County Legislative Liaison.

Other County staff: Brian Shelton, Principal Planner, Active Transportation; Laura Castro, Vision Zero. **Other guests:** Catalina Calachan, Commission on Aging; Judah Dal Cais; Capital Bikeshare Program Manager; Lois DeMeester, ACCS; Matt Jones, National Landing BID; Kevin O'Brien, WABA; David Ansell; Collier Cook; Randy Swart

The BAC and PAC Chairs called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and asked attendees to introduce themselves briefly. Neither Chair had a Chair's Report; no member of the public had public comments.

Robert Capper, DPR Capital Assets Manager: Four Mile Run Trail: (Slide of plans only – see recording for other material)
The eastern, lower sections of Four Mile Run Trail (4MRT) are only in Fair condition and need repaving. The speaker suggests that repaving this section of the trail is an opportunity to improve trail conditions, including widening the trail, softening hard right and left turns, prioritizing movement on the trail over other connections (including ONLY having yellow line on 4MRT), and relocating the trail away from Glebe (except for bridge over Long Branch). The joint DPR/DES Trail team will plan and construct the trail modifications. Trees east of the Mt. Vernon Bridge will be protected, but perhaps the trail could be straightened out more while passing through them. See his preliminary plans, by section, and note changes through each section. He also noted, when asked, that it was the Army Corps of Engineers that removed the beautiful copse of trees along Four Mile Run.

Comments and suggestions: Remove rails when possible by the T-intersection, as they block sightlines. Expand the trail width over the bridge, perhaps by taking parts of each travel lane. Consider how the bus stop on Glebe impacts the trail plans. Straighten both turns (right and left) east of the Long Branch bridge. Coordinate plans and schedule with the Mt. Vernon Bridge redesign (don't build anything that might get torn down!) What is the schedule? This fall if possible; otherwise the project needs to wait for spring. Finally - Show us what you plan to do (quick marks on the trail) for more feedback.

Eric Balliet and Sarah Crawford, County transportation staff, and Lisa Kay Schweyer, Foursquare: ACCS Strategic Plan Update:

After brief introductory comments by E. Balliet and S. Crawford, L. K. Schweyer gave the presentation, with many details on the overall ACCS programs, how services were evaluated, and their proposals for improvements. The new vision and mission include covering all trips (not just commuting) and providing traveling information to empower all travelers. Plans include unifying branding with one brand and one website; expanding business to business outreach; and reaching older people, older buildings, and schools. ACCS will use data to support programs.

Discussion: Note: Because the meeting was running behind schedule, we asked that the presentation team address questions and comments in the chat. Chat questions included: plans to relieve the bike-ped staff shortages (We will continue to support our BikeArlington and WalkArlington programs, and the full strategic plan has additional recommendations related to biking, such as adding more hands-on bike activities and looking at providing incentives for ebike purchases. This will require us to look for additional funding sources to support these items. Additional staffing TBD); Will Commuter Store be renamed (perhaps); status of Mobility Lab activities: We desperately need Mobility Lab to get back to doing aggregate site plan analysis. These two reports:

[\(https://mobilitylab.org/research/building-studies/arlington-county-residential-building-study-aggregate-analysis-update/](https://mobilitylab.org/research/building-studies/arlington-county-residential-building-study-aggregate-analysis-update/)

and <https://mobilitylab.org/research/building-studies/office-building-transportation-performance-monitoring-study-2016/>) has been incredibly useful to Transportation Commission, but they're both getting so old that it's hard to trust the data anymore as being fully relevant to current day Arlington. (Mobility Lab has had a more internal focus in recent years, due to the requirements of our CMAQ funding. It continues to produce reports for ACCS such as the Arlington Resident Travel Survey and the Arlington Analysis for the State of the Commute Survey. It also plays a key role in analyzing site plan developments by helping with the required transportation studies for site plan buildings.)

Tenley Peterson, Planning Commission: SPRC Process/PAC Role:

The speaker reviewed the general approval process for new commercial developments: First, the developer presents a preliminary plan to local groups, such as the relevant civic associations. County CPHD staff then work collaboratively with the developer to modify plans. Once the 4.1 plans are accepted by staff, staff can organize the SPRC process: appointing a Chair from the Planning Commission, developing a roster of potential participating groups (including the PAC, relevant commissions, civic associations, and other groups); then reaching out to each group to identify their representatives on the SPRC roster. Before the first SPRC meeting, the developer and County offer an online public comment period, which is usually followed by two hybrid SPRC meetings. The SPRC roster members sit at the table to discuss a standard set of topics, as well as any unusual issues with the specific development. Pedestrian issues are always important and addressed. After the SPRC meetings, the project then goes to the Planning Commission for comments and approval, and finally to the County Board. Each of these meetings provides an opportunity for public comment, either as the SPRC PAC representative or through individual comments.

The speaker's suggestions for successful participation on the SPRC: Have a consistent voice as a representative; watch out for varying voices with different representatives. See the E2C2 card as a great model for providing consistent comments. Minimally PAC should have talking points to share with representatives. Align with others at the table; don't keep talking about something that's not being supported. A consistent voice over time gets long term changes. Be patient; it can take time to have an impact, but change does happen and you can have an impact. Note that everyone can't get everything that they want because of limited space, i.e. compromises for biophilia, bike lanes, and sidewalk space are often needed. She cited the [Citizens guide](#), [standard rosters](#), and [upcoming SPRC meetings](#).

Discussion: What are the chances that BAC can get a regular seat at the table, as once proposed.? C. Slatt instead suggested monitoring upcoming site plans for significant bike issues, such as trails, then alert the BAC to ask if they want to have a representative on these specific projects. T. Korn suggested that the County needs to implement more great projects being done elsewhere, possibly through more tactical urbanism to try new ideas.

Ilana Morof, Legislative Liaison: BAC-PAC legislative priorities:

The speaker noted that the 2025 legislative session will be a short six-week session, focusing on budget amendments. Having a Republican governor and House and Senate with narrow Democratic majorities makes getting any legislation through very difficult. **A BAC-PAC letter should be sent by Friday, September 27.**

Some specific comments and suggestions:

- Bike legislation: This year several bills came close, but in the final committee meeting, one member was out sick, and the bills all died. A hopeful sign: VDOT came to the table. The speaker encouraged resubmission: rolling stops and cyclists can go on pedestrian light cycles.
- Some general high priority topics include: Vision Zero, regional transportation (bus entrances, mobility, Route 1), WMATA funding. Think broader – but specific. Keep proposing good ideas.
- Dillon Rule: Legislation passed to review last year, but review was delayed: Not everyone wants to get rid of the rule. It comes up every few years, with no results. Advocating as a County proposal is not recommended at this time.
- VDOT should follow local street design guidelines: VDOT projects don't always follow our guidelines. County has to jump through hoops to make changes. This proposal is NOT for submission by the County, but as general advocacy through advocacy groups such as CSG.
- Red light cameras: Can they be used to enforce right turn noncompliance? Need a red turn light to enforce. Don Scott, the Speaker of the House, does not support any camera legislation, so related legislation does not make it out of committee. Del. Roehm's bill was only one last year. Suggest working with Portsmouth advocates.
- Pure contributory negligence: Ok to resubmit.

- Distracted drivers/drivers' education: Specific legislation proposals to prevent distracted driving is an option. Drivers' education is probably not legislation, but through the DMV.
- Higher rates for registration for larger/heavier vehicles: Dillon Rule would prohibit Arlington from doing this.

Eric Goodman: Vision Zero Mid-Year Report:

The Chair consulted with attending Vision Zero staff on instructions for submissions for the Mid-Year Report; staff want highlights of PAC Vision Zero related activities. P. Van Hine noted that she had drafted a response, based on an earlier submission, and promised to send her draft to the Chair for his editing and submission. Comments on the [Vision Zero website](#) should be submitted prior to the External Stakeholder Group Meeting on October 24 (7 PM).

BAC-PAC business:

- **The BAC-PAC Chairs: Arlington's Transportation Future:** The County plans to "refresh" the current Master Transportation Plan into a leaner, more focused single document that will direct County transportation planning into the mid-Century. The project includes an Advisory Committee with representatives from 12 Committees and Commissions, including the BAC and the PAC. The BAC Chair noted that she has asked Mike Hanna to serve as the BAC representative and Dana Bres to serve as an unofficial secondary representative. The PAC Chair has asked Pamela Van Hine to serve as the PAC representative and asked PAC members to consider being the unofficial backup. Ms. Van Hine briefly provided information on the project and encouraged all PAC members to be informed and involved as the project is key to improving pedestrian facilities and safety. The temporary webpage is linked through [here](#). She then asked for a *motion and second to nominate her as the official representative*; and PAC members moved and seconded her nomination; with no discussion or opposition, she was approved as the PAC representative.
- **[PAC August 8, 2024 minutes](#):** PAC members moved and seconded approving the minutes as submitted; with no discussion and no opposition, the minutes were approved by attending PAC members.

Mary Dallao, BikeArlington, announced that the Spring 2025 Bike to Work Day will be held on Thursday, May 13, rather than Friday because many commuters do not work on Fridays. She also announced that the revised Bicycle Comfort Map is almost ready for review and that the revised printed map will be similar in format to the prior versions.

The Chairs adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM. The next PAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, at 7PM. Watch the [PAC page](#) for a draft agenda and meeting login information.