

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Virtual Meeting in Microsoft Teams, Wednesday, October 9, 2024 7PM

Meeting Recording [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#) Some slides are also available

Minutes, approved unanimously by PAC members present, November 4, 2024

Attendees: Eric Goodman, Acting PAC Chair; Pamela Van Hine, PAC Recording Secretary; John Armstrong; Eric Malpeli; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, Director, Active Transportation Programs; Lauren Hassel, WalkArlington Acting Program Manager; Max Ewart, Associate Planner, DPR (speaker)

The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and welcomed PAC members and staff. In response to his opening request for a goal for the PAC to achieve, most attendees supported growing the PAC membership. E. Malpeli also hoped for the successful completion of the Langston Boulevard Plan, as he is involved in the plan development and it will impact his neighborhood.

Max Ewart, Associate Planner, DPR, Gateway Park Project Manager: [Gateway Park](#) Final Draft Design

The speaker reviewed the history of the project to date, then showed the project update video which is also posted on the park [engagement page](#). He used the [PDF of the park plans](#) to explain specific features and their relationships, such as the new, graceful bridge over Ft. Myer and its connections on the western half of the park.

Discussion: (also briefly discussed boathouse access and food trucks)

- The new proposed bridge over Ft Myer is graceful – what are its connections (western half: SW, NW, N over Langston; eastern half – SW corner only). Bridge is fully accessible with a gentle slope. Suggestion: Add stairs on the eastern half to provide access from the northeast and a safe exit from the bridge.
- Potential pedestrian cut-throughs on western half – between Rooms 5, 6, and 7, with the wandering paths, closely packed: DPR will monitor any ped-created desire lines and add stones to cross, while protecting plantings.
- Pedestrian access from the east and south: Many pedestrians will take Metro and buses to reach the park from the south. As the existing safe overpass needs to be removed for a local construction project, a safe alternative route is needed to cross EB Langston – at Ft Myer, Moore, and Lynn. Pedestrians approaching from the west need a safe crossing over Lynn and over WB Langston to the NE corner of the park. The speaker emphasized that DPR continues to work with DES, VDOT, and NPS to design safer crossings for all.

Note: Public comments on the final Gateway Park plans are due Sunday, October 20.

Pamela Van Hine, PAC Representative, [Arlington's Transportation Future](#) Advisory Group: Project Update & Homework

The speaker reviewed the general planning process for Arlington's Transportation Future (ATF), relevant parties, upcoming engagement, challenges, resources, and PAC homework. The PAC needs to agree upon answers to these 4 questions:

- How does your committee/commission use the existing MTP?
- What does your committee/commission hope the refreshed transportation plan includes?
- What does your committee/commission see as the biggest transportation challenges facing Arlington?
- What does your committee/commission see as opportunities for transportation?

The speaker noted that she'll post the questions and other information in a GoogleDocs doc to collect PAC members' thoughts. PAC members will discuss further and reach consensus on the PAC responses at the November 13 PAC meeting. The speaker will make final consolidations and edits and submit by the November 19 deadline.

Eric Goodman and David Patton: Developing a PAC Membership Brochure for Recruitment

The speakers led a discussion with PAC members and M. Dallao and L. Hassel on the need for a membership recruitment brochure, what the brochure should contain, and how it can be designed and distributed. M. Dallao and L. Hassel offered their assistance in designing and producing the brochure, although the contents need input from PAC members. When members present were asked why they joined the PAC, most replied that initially they attended to try to fix a specific issue in their neighborhood, but stayed to work on larger issues. Members valued learning about transportation and pedestrian issues and having opportunities to weigh in on key issues together – on budgets, legislation, major transportation and park projects, and new development. D. Patton took notes to prepare a summary.

Mary Dallao, Director, Active Transportation Programs: Updated Bicycle Comfort Map

The speaker reviewed the history of the map and its current evolution, which combines a data-driven analysis with personal experiences and a familiar, easy to use format. The draft is in final form and will be released shortly ([ARLNow article](#)). Additional features, such as sidewalk conditions, might be considered in future versions.

Other Updates and PAC Business:

D. Patton announced an upcoming public engagement with the Arlington National Cemetery for their [Entry Corridor Area Improvements](#), which include much needed links to the proposed [Arlington Memorial Trail](#). ANC staff will hold an open house public engagement at the ANC Visitor Center on Wednesday, October 16. Final comments are due by November 2.

PAC Business: No official PAC business because no quorum.

The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:12 PM. The next PAC meeting (virtual) will be held on Wednesday, November 13. Watch the [PAC page](#) for a draft agenda and other details.