

Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Virtual Meeting on TEAMS Wednesday, April 10, 2025

Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKJZl1Kj5zA> ARLNow story:

<https://www.arlnow.com/2025/04/15/arlingtons-pedestrian-advisory-panel-seeks-to-maintain-influence-despite-restructuring/>

Minutes, Approved unanimously by PAC members present, August 13, 2025

PAC Attendees: Eric Goodman, Acting Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; John Armstrong; Patrick Kenney; Eric Malpeli; David Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planner; Ambar Pankaj (considered new PAC member)

Guest: Mechal, Public Health graduate student at Marymount, on assignment.

The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and welcomed attending PAC members, staff, and one guest. The Chair had no formal report; Mechal introduced himself, but had no formal comments.

Eric Goodman, PAC Acting Chair: Roundtable discussion on role of the PAC following last month's meeting with Mark Schwartz, the County Manager

The speaker displayed the summary document that he prepared and summarized key points, including:

Do: Best practices, new technologies, guidelines/standards. Example: monitor/ticket bike lanes – cameras on all County vehicles.

Don't: Send comments on specific projects – but do summarize systematic issues that do not work – and explain why.

Fixing sidewalks was a major issue! He noted the [2024 Sidewalk condition map](#) as an important planning tool

BAC/PAC are effective working together; he will consider merging down the pike.

Discussion:

DP: The last PAC meeting with the County Manager was the [January, 2018 PAC meeting](#). The BAC Chair and Vice Chair also attended., as the roles of the PAC and BAC were items of contentious discussion. However, input from the BAC-PAC over the years has led to bike-ped issues being “baked in” to County transportation plans. County staff are professionals who know what they're doing and do not need specific detailed engagement from the BAC-PAC for most projects. He always stresses the value of PAC members' enthusiasm and knowledge to staff, but agrees that the PAC does not need to weigh in on most specific projects. EG: The PAC needs to hear from the County what they want from us, which will help the PAC plan future meetings. DP: Can the PAC amplify its voice by responding as a committee for each engagement?

PVH: The PAC recently did respond with PAC letters on the Gateway Park and CC2DCA project designs. However, the PAC can't respond (as the PAC) on all transportation projects. There are too many, response deadlines require a quick turnaround, which is not always possible. Setting up a process that will work for us, including reaching consensus, will be a challenge. And we will continue to need real engagement on big projects of concern to the PAC, such as Route 1.

AP: 1. The PAC should advise/engage in ped issues more broadly in the County. with variable involvement, as needed; 2. Great that the PAC shares engagement opportunities, and not just County projects. Encourage PACers to engage –not just share. 3. Standards and best practices is a priority: focus on a few items 2-3; i.e. suggest pilots to the Vision Zero team. 4. He needs information on the staff structure/working relationships; can we encourage sharing between groups? What needs feedback: Crosswalks/intersections need to be redesigned for safety, not speed.

EM: The PAC should continue to comment on big projects; does the PAC need to be on all site plans? What would we add for projects? Would merging with the BAC give us more impact? Ped issues are more important to the PAC, but what is the most effective way to provide input? Issue: Existing road designs encourage speeding; we need more road diets, even on Glebe. He appreciates presentations from staff.

DP: Limited number of people weigh in – threshold effect? Can we trust staff to design projects, when is broader input needed?

JA: At what level should we respond to other staff? Sharing information with our communities is so valuable. Staff has the same concerns as the PAC, including on SPRCs. Staff and other SPRC members are ped advocates. PAC should continue to advocate for best practice changes. What do we need to fight for? Connectivity is still an issue – and it must be safe.

Bridges are often especially problematic, as they often have too narrow sidewalks and are poorly lit.

PK: Synergy of crosswalks and bike lanes – need to ensure design keeps us safe, does not cause conflicts. PAC role: It's Ok to focus on big issues, i.e. safety.

PVH: Multimodal role: Does the County Manager plan to combine the BAC and PAC with TAC too? For crosswalks/intersection redesigns, the PAC needs to work with BAC and TAC on the best solutions for everyone. Sidewalks are also important. – glad that the County Manager agrees. Can we invite Jon Lawler back to the PAC?
DP: Reach out to neighbors/community is great! Teach them how it works! i.e. how to make sidewalks. Also, please use me to find County contacts.

PAC business:

Approved [February 3, 2025](#) Joint Meeting and [March 12, 2025](#) joint meeting. Motions to approve both were seconded, with no discussion, and approved unanimously by PAC members present.

Pamela Van Hine: MTP Update: Draft Vision Statement and Goals

The speaker quickly reviewed what the PAC approved and submitted to staff. She notes that staff will share their latest revisions during the Advisory Group meeting tomorrow night. Eric Malpeli will attend for the PAC. Finally, keep sending the speaker your ideas on what needs to be in the plan. She will start a new GoogleDocs doc to track them.

Eric Goodman: Vision Zero Walk on Saturday, April 5:

As neither Mary Dallao nor Lauren Hassel could attend the PAC meeting tonight, Eric agreed to describe the walk – from Courthouse Plaza to Central Plaza, by walking along various sections of Wilson and Clarendon and cross streets. Highlights of the walk included new bollards/median hardenings that help drivers line up correctly when turning; bumpouts, LPIs, RRFBs, parklets, and red light cameras. Some problems included too narrow sidewalks along Wilson in some areas, lack of a bollard on the travel lane side of the crosswalk for the median hardening at Rhodes and Clarendon (could not do because of the turning radii), and concrete islands that are not visible (can they be painted?).

David Patton: Project Updates

- *Bike-ped counters:* Annual inspection of equipment was great; project dashboard is being updated; hope to release soon.
- *Fairfax County is hoping to create the NoVa Loop*, a 70-mile multimodal loop that will include Arlington and Alexandria trails The W&OD and 4MRT in Arlington will be included.
- *Tenley: Peterson:* The PAC should not worry about SPRCs – don't worry about attending each SPRC, but do share views with relevant staff. TC: Meg Flores; really need to be careful how to work with them.
- *DPR:* As the [Public Spaces Master Plan](#) is due for review and revision, Irena Lazic contacted PAC staff to see if Andrea Walker will continue as the PAC rep for the review/update. P. Van Hine said she'd follow up with her.
- *Elise Cleva*, CPHD, promoted an upcoming panel discussion on the [history of County Ordinance on affordable housing](#); Tuesday, April 15, 7PM. The discussion was [recorded](#).
- *The Vision Zero team* had a great outreach to high school students. A key question for the students was What are their perceptions of safety in different environments. The team also had the students engage in the current Vision Zero survey and map. All PAC members need to [complete this survey](#) as well (due April 30). Don't forget the map!
- *Michelle Stafford:* Upcoming Neighborhood Complete Streets Engagement: [S. Dinwiddie at 22nd Street](#) in Claremont neighborhood. The PAC looked at the survey and noted that the ped ramp on the right side of the planned crosswalk does not line up with the crosswalk, which creates risks for those with mobility and vision disabilities. PAC members are encouraged to submit additional comments. Note that the project now has a virtual public engagement on April 22 – an excellent time to share PAC views!
- *CC2DCA:* This project has complex relationships with so many organizations. It is now in the design phase, and the team is working with an architectural firm. The project has budget constraints: and adding a roof over the entire length of the bridge adds costs, weight, and wind load. Note the concept of the Bridge-as-Art. The bridge must work, be effective, safe, unified design, and affordable. Watch for more public engagements.

Eric Goodman: Announcements

- The [2024 Vision Zero report](#) is now available online.
- The PAC will work with County staff on a walking meeting to address bike-ped access to the proposed Gateway Park.
- He cannot attend the meeting next month; P. Van Hine will be the acting acting Chair?
- Current transportation engagement on Dinwiddie and Vision Zero are noted above.

The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:03 PM. The next PAC meeting will be virtual and held on Wednesday, May 14, at 7PM. Visit the [PAC page](#) for a draft agenda and login instructions.