

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

Joint BAC-PAC virtual meeting on TEAMS, Monday, March 2, 2026 7 PM

Minutes approved unanimously by PAC members present, April 9, 2026

[Bicycle Advisory Committee \(BAC\) - Pedestrian Advisory Committee \(PAC\) Meeting | March 2, 2026](#)

PAC Attendees: Ambar Pankaj, Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Don Bennett; David Earley; Eric Goodman; Tom Korn; Eric Malpeli; Lauren Hassel, WalkArlington Program Manager; Peggy Jones, Commission on Aging Liaison

BAC Attendees: Cynthia Palmer, Chair; Dana Bres, Vice Chair; David Ansell; Gillian Burgess; Eliot Forster-Benson; Eric Goodman; Mike Hanna; Aaron Schuetz; Leslie Tierstein; Elwyn Gonzalez, Associate Transportation Planner; Mary Dallao, Director of Active Transportation Programs

Speakers and guest: Christine Sherman Baker, Program Manager, Vision Zero; Kevin O'Brien, WABA Northern Virginia; Randy Swart

The PAC and BAC Chairs called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and welcomed BAC-PAC members, staff, guest speakers, and one guest. They asked attendees to introduce themselves when speaking during the meeting. Neither Committee had a Chair's Report. Chat is now turned off - need a spoken record for the meeting record.

Christine Sherman Baker, Vision Zero Program Manager: [Vision Zero Program Update](#)

In April, the draft action plan will go public and also will go to the Transportation Commission and County Board. Action Plan topics include: Commitment to continue the Vision Zero program, what the current Vision Zero program looks like, a progress report, crash data summary, equity focus, Zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2030 goal. Note that arterials and neighborhood streets have different tools. Key themes (many from public engagement): Speeding, distracted drivers, more enforcement needed; quick builds are popular, but behavior campaigns need improvement, and some citizens are still unaware of the program. Draft key graphic for program: identify, address (implementation such as quick build, enforcement, behavior change), track as followup, then repeat cycle as needed.

Draft action items (26) overview by category: Note that these draft Action Items will be incorporated into the overall structure and program rather than listed as separate Action Items. Staff organized the draft Action Items into these categories: engineering, engagement, behavior change, and plans/policies, but other categorization suggestions are welcome. Staff said that organizing action items using the Safe Systems Approach lumps too many action items in the same category, and is insufficient in capturing other action items well.

- *Engineering:* Proactive systemic safety; arterial vs. neighborhood speed management; more dynamic crash tracking; data-driven enforcement; exploration of AI/near-miss analytics.
- *Engagement:* Ambassador program; strengthened VDOT partnership; shift to year-round outreach; focus engagement on High Injury Network audits; expanded staff training; traffic gardens; streamlined annual reporting (annual crash report + annual progress report).
- *Behavior change:* Support older adult drivers; anti-drunk driving; youth traveler education; micromobility education; anti-speeding; distracted driving.
- *Plans/policies:* Relaunch Safe Routes to School and school walk audits; construction/MOT standards supplement to Virginia Work Area Protection Manual; staff training for safety reviews; secure funding; 90-day turnaround for requests for service; improved scooter crash tracking; safety legislation advocacy; safer vehicle purchasing guidelines; potential future topic of e-vehicle/e-bike registration.

Comments:

- *The Vision Zero program is GREAT!* Best performance measures; most impressive program in Arlington; Quick builds are terrific!
- *Snowcrete:* Challenges included curb ramps, sidewalks, and push-buttons blocked for weeks after storms, forcing pedestrians into dangerous streets. Suggestions included reviewing snow clearing practices, considering signal changes during snow events, involving the Vision Zero staff in the snow plans and data collection/analysis, and consulting with the BAC-PAC as plans are developed. Does Vision Zero have data on crashes before and after the recent storm?
- *Arterial speed prevention tool and VDOT crashes:* The speaker noted that VDOT owns 21% of roads in Arlington County, but has 40% of critical crashes, with a high percentage involving speeding drivers; a BAC member suggested a different approach to analyzing the data. Continuing collaboration with VDOT

is critical - and challenging. Many tools that the County can use on neighborhood streets, such as speed humps, raised crosswalks, and significant lane narrowing are not allowed on VDOT roads. Fire truck response time also limits implementation on other arterials. The County does have a new pilot for road markings and signage, though has challenges implementing. Speed cameras in school zones are also effective, but the speaker noted that would be hard to do at construction sites (consider long-term ones).

- *Construction zones/MOT*: MOTs frequently create unsafe pedestrian conditions and noncompliance with detours when routes are inconvenient; the speaker described the intent to strengthen and “level up” work zone standards to better accommodate bike-peds, including potential temporary lane adjustments with protection where feasible. Another suggestion was to add a post-installation review and revision mechanisms for MOTs. Please involve BAC-PAC in MOT discussions.
- *E-bikes: Should they be registered?*: Registration of e-bikes has been raised by the ACPD (for enforcement), the general public, and staff, who are concerned about rising, but limited, e-bike crash data (while acknowledging that overall e-bike use has increased). BAC-PAC members urged that proposals must be nuanced, consider the class and speed of the e-bike, and cautioned against creating barriers to e-bike use. Continuing to be a welcoming community, with equity for all users from all backgrounds and socio-economic status, and avoiding any unintended consequences of registration requirements are critical. The speaker noted e-bike registration is not a finalized action item and appreciated the BAC-PAC feedback. The BAC wants to be involved in e-bike registration policy development. Note topic discussion by K. O'Brien below.
- *AI analytics*: The speaker described the intended use as targeted intersection conflict analysis using short-term video to support diagnosis and coordination (including with VDOT). A BAC member countered that AI data tools do not capture the full picture of what happens at an intersection; staff need to understand what is missed and what parts of what is captured may not be “typical” (“Suppressed demand” such as driving behavior after snow storms).

Mike Hanna, BAC Advisory Group Representative, and Pamela Van Hine, PAC Advisory Group Representative: [Arlington's Transportation Future - Update](#) (Advisory Group [meeting recording](#); Advisory Group [draft strategies](#))

BAC: M. Hanna noted that R. Swart and G. Burgess gave him good feedback for the BAC strategies. He requested more input from the BAC before he submits the strategies to the MTP update staff.

PAC: P. Van Hine quickly outlined the thinking behind the PAC draft strategies: 1) To fix what is wrong with the current Pedestrian Element - limited sidewalk clear zones in commercial zones and in the neighborhoods. 2) To add key guidelines from the current Pedestrian Element that are missing in the draft MTP Update - completing the walkway network throughout Arlington. 3) To fix the broken system for planning, building and maintaining sidewalks - in both commercial and neighborhood areas. And 4) To support the implications of “pedestrian first” County policies: a) Ensure that the pedestrian clear zone is protected from encroachment, b) Prioritize safe and convenient access for all pedestrians in construction zones, c) Ensure that all intersections are designed for safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders. d) Ensure that all pedestrian routes (including from the curb) are fully accessible for all pedestrians, and e) Launch campaigns and programs that promote safe, empathetic behavior for all road users.

Comments and responses: Do the PAC strategies support: 1) driveway access (yes), 2) mode separation, especially on trails (PAC strategies support protected bike lanes), 3) Strategy for sidewalk widths needs to be flexible; many existing sidewalks are much narrower - but their main problem is utility poles and other barriers. Lower neighborhood speeds instead as a quick fix. (wider pedestrian zones are needed for safety, comfort, and accessibility, especially for those with impairments; yes, focus is to prioritize new sidewalks, not existing ones). 4) Don't limit comments to snow clearing (PAC strategies address many other issues).

Cynthia Palmer, BAC Chair, and Dana Bres, BAC Vice Chair: BAC-PAC Project Tracking

The speakers summarized their meeting with County transportation staff on February 12. The primary topic was the new “project liaison” role for the BAC and PAC. What is DES thinking about this new role? Staff will give the BAC-PAC quarterly advance notice of upcoming transportation projects; BAC and PAC comments will get “extra weight” and an extended deadline for comments. The BAC-PAC will not have access to more information per se, nor have a staff contact to interact with; The BAC-PAC needs to prepare comments and send them to BAC-PAC staff who will pass them along. There is no project level 1 engagement, and staff answers were underwhelming, as the information provided is the same as for the general public and without a chance to interact. It's also not clear whether BAC or PAC can continue to send letters to the County Manager, or what happens when they do.

CC2DCA: P. Van Hine noted some design issues: lack of cover over the entire bridge, and the VRE entrance from Crystal Drive has only one elevator and no escalator. D. Bres noted that the connection with VRE needs to have a holistic design. BAC and PAC letters are due by May 1; A. Walker and P. Van Hine are drafting the PAC letter.

Mary Dallao, BikeArlington, and Lauren Hassel, WalkArlington: BikeArlington and WalkArlington Updates
Winter Bike to Work Day March 13 4-6 PM (postponed); Spring adult bike education classes (with WABA); 3 group rides. March 26 film screening of Lynn Salvo (Babes on Bikes) ride across Europe. Bike to Work Day is May 15 with lots of pit stops (see BikeArlington [website](#) for details and registration for all of these events)
[Spring walk with Vision Zero](#) (Saturday, April 18, 10 AM, National Landing); updating [Walkabouts](#) brochure, The [Bike Comfort Map](#) is due to be updated later this year (fall).

Cynthia Palmer, BAC Chair, and Ambar Pankaj, PAC Chair: County Manager's Proposed [FY27 Budget](#)
PAC member D. Earley reviewed the FY27 budget plans, including programmatic reductions that may have an impact and a comparison of transportation maintenance projects. Budget work sessions coming up - March 10 DES; March 19 ACPD; March 5 - DPR, April 9 - Capital Budget - are good opportunities to hear discussions with staff. Commission speakers present to the Board on April 8 (afternoon and evening).
Comments: Proposing using contractors to do parking enforcement aides is not a good idea. Are committees invited to the Commissions Meeting? (probably not). The public hearing on March 24 is another opportunity for anyone to speak. Is D. Earley willing to continue to develop the PAC letter, which must get to the Board before budget wrap-up on April 13 (yes).

Kevin O'Brien, [WABA](#) Northern Virginia: Dominion Energy-NOVA Parks MOU for W&OD Trail - and Commonwealth of Virginia Legislation Update

W&OD - Dominion Energy and NOVA Parks [updated their MOU for the W&OD Trail](#) through negotiations from 2024 until the end of 2025. Advocates were key to the updated MOU. Tree canopy protection and maintenance were fixed!

Comments: Is the MOU a legitimate document that will last? (NOVA Parks feels good about the MOU, and Dominion Energy needed to be a responsible neighbor). Were AI & data centers a key factor? (not really, Dominion wanted to avoid the higher costs of tree protection and maintenance). Does MOU include a commitment for restoration and replanting? (yes, they are already working on the earlier sections of the trail). Can NOVA Parks support mode separation and can Dominion Energy provide financial support for the trail? (NOVA Parks is considering dual trails; Arlington County needs to be involved).

Legislation: HB Bike Safety Omnibus - includes safety stop (stop signs only), riding 2 abreast, and using LPI by bikes), bill is now going to Senate committees etc. Bike signal phase - pilot is ongoing, Virginia needs to authorize additional use, but a new bill might help. Automated camera enforcement bills - converging into one bill, with no real expansion for locations, but better funding use and how often need to be calibrated. An effort by a Loudon County senator required registration of ALL ebikes. The bill has been amended/ paused - it's now a joint bill to form a stakeholder group to review the topic over this spring, summer, and have recommendations for next year by this fall.

BAC-PAC Business and Announcements:

- Approval of [PAC minutes from February 11 meeting](#): Moved, seconded, and approved by PAC members present without further discussion.
- [S. George Mason Drive & S. Four Mile Run Drive Intersection Study](#): Study completed, video posted, no "report".
- [MetroRail Closures](#): The Crystal City Metro stop will continue to have weekend closures through June, with a break for the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Shuttle buses are provided.

Final thoughts:

- PAC Chair: Keep active - send responses as personal comments, attend SPRCs and other meetings, write letters.
- BAC Chair and E Goodman: Bike lane delineation project - discuss in April. Connect with Vision Zero staff too, Meet with APS about vehicle safety (but not in April)
- BAC Vice Chair: Bike lane snowcrete damage- should individuals report via RAP or will staff just fix them. (staff will fix them).

The PAC Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:04PM. The next BAC meeting will be held on Monday April 6 at 7 PM. Check the [BAC webpage](#) for details. The next PAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 7 PM. Check the [PAC webpage](#) for a draft agenda and login details.