

Vision Zero External Stakeholder Group

March 2, 2021 from 7:00-8:30PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

- Arlington Public Schools (APS), Not Present
- APS Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices, *Elizabeth Kiker*
- APS Safe Routes to School, *Lauren Hassel*
- Bicycle Advisory Committee, *Cynthia Palmer*
- Arlington Families for Safe Streets, *Gillian Burgess*
- Lee Highway Alliance, *Ginger Brown*
- Bike/Walk Arlington Transportation Partners, *Katy Lanf*
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee, *Eric Goodman*
- Transportation Commission, *Chris Yarie*
- Planning Commission, *James Schroll*
- Transit Advisory Committee, *Richard Price*
- Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Not Present
- Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, *Lynn Durbin, Amy McWilliams*
- Economic Development Commission, *Nicole Merlene*
- Rosslyn BID, *Alli Henry*
- National Landing BID, *Rob Mandle*
- Arlington County Civic Federation, *Allen Norton*
- Arlington County Manager's Office, Not Present
- Arlington County Police Department, *Lt. Stephen Clark*
- Arlington County DES, *Christine Baker, Dennis Leach, Hui Wang, Dan Nabors, Sam Murrey, Nate Graham, Leah Gerber, Laura Castro*
- RK&K Consulting Staff, *Brian Wert*

Invited Organizations:

- Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission
- Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee
- Environment and Energy Conservation Committee
- Commission on Aging
- Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families
- Arlington Teen Network Board
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Site Plan Review Committee
- Housing Commission
- Ballston BID
- Clarendon Alliance
- Civic Federation
- Lee Highway Alliance
- Disability Advisory Commission

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Review of Feedback on Draft Action Plan
3. Education & Engagement Implementation
4. Next Steps

Notes:

1. Introductions
2. Review of Feedback on Draft Action Plan
 - a. County staff gave an overview of Phase III comments and the analysis to date.
 - b. The representative for Arlington Families for Safe Streets expressed a desire to explicitly state that a goal was to shift people from vehicles to other modes. This could also be focused on vehicle miles traveled or auto trips being reduced.
 - i. This sentiment was seconded in the chat by the representative from the Transportation Commission.
 - ii. Staff Responded that the sentiment is in the action items but not explicitly stated. The Vision Zero team will look in to this further.
 - c. The Representative for APS Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices recommended that the Action Plan must be understood by the entire community and be presented in short/clear language.
 - i. Staff responded that the team recognized that there was a lot of information presented in the third engagement period. The amount of information may have been too much for some respondents to fully digest. There will be a focus on future communications to try to address this issue.
 - d. The representative from the Transportation Commission seconded that the language was very technical in some areas. They also noted that there were some connections not explicitly laid out in the Draft Action Plan. They noted that while the plan states that the crashes are higher on arterial streets there is a need to state that arterials are generally wider, and wider streets lead to higher speeds, and higher speeds lead to more severe crashes. The desire is to more explicitly link the causes of sever injuries and fatalities with the action items.
 - i. County Staff noted that the team is working to address the technical language.
 - ii. The representative from the Transportation Commission later clarified that some of the concepts that are known to active participants are not immediately intuitive to the public at large and stating those items explicitly could be helpful.
 - e. The representative from the Planning Commission expressed a desire to reduce some of the technical material at the front of the report and perhaps shift that to an appendix.
 - i. County staff noted that the team will examine how the Action Plan can be adjusted to rearrange sections and shift the action items closer to the beginning of the Action Plan.
 - ii. The representative from the Pedestrian Advisory Committee noted that pages 49-52 could be moved closer to the beginning of the Action Plan as an example of items that should be moved to the front of the report.
 - f. The representative from the National Landing BID expressed an opinion that the Action Plan could be more proactive and that perhaps the Action Plan relies too heavily on crash reports. They suggested identifying design factors, such as lanes wider than 12 feet, that can be used to proactively reviewed for safety improvements. Ideally GIS data could be used to identify locations and those could be overlaid with perception information.

- i. County staff noted that Arlington County is working to get all infrastructure in to a single database so that a similar effort can be undertaken. Staff also noted there is work that can be done to better make connections and bring clarity to these action items.
 - g. The representative for Arlington Families for Safe Streets noted that the issue related to language had less to do with it being overly technical. Instead, the issue was the length of the Action Plan, connecting the dots as to how small actions have big outcomes, and bringing the items most people care about more immediately to the reader's attention.
 - i. County staff noted that efforts will be undertaken to address this issue.
 - ii. The representative also noted that language about commitments that would make doing the right thing the default action would be helpful.
 - h. The representative from the Planning Commission suggested that it would be helpful to state that certain groups (committees and commissions) in objectives like B2 and B7.
 - i. Staff expressed support for this idea.
 - i. The representative from the Columbia Pike Resident Association asked what the plan is moving forward for having the plan available in other languages.
 - i. County staff stated that the final plan will be sent to translation services so that it is available in Spanish.
 - j. The representative from the Columbia Pike Resident Association suggested a need to address both lane width and sidewalk width in the action items.
 - i. The Representative for APS Advisory Committee on Transportation Choices expressed support for this concept.
 - k. The representative from the Planning Commission asked if the action plan had been reviewed for color blindness
 - i. County staff responded that if the plan has not been yet, it will be reviewed for colorblindness in the review process.
- 3. Education & Engagement Implementation
 - a. County staff discussed the plan for engagement going forward, which includes working with the External Stakeholders Group to continue to reach residents.
 - b. The representative from the Columbia Pike Resident Association asked about the Safe Routes to School Program
 - i. The representative for the Safe Routes to School Program noted that the grants for the Safe Routes to School Program have been reduced and efforts have been made to continue the program as possible.
 - c. The representative from the Economic Development Commission asked how the communication and partnerships between transportation staff and school staff has been so successful in the reopening of schools.
 - i. County staff noted that the team met with schools a large number of teams and have been meeting with the schools for over 6 months. Meetings were with both district representatives and individual school representative. Staff added that the team got a lot of help from group such as Safe Routes to School and Walk and Bike Arlington
 - d. County staff directed participants to a "Jamboard" activity in which the group walked through four questions to brainstorm ideas for future partnerships, action, and messaging about Vision Zero. The results of the exercise for each question are captured below.

Question 1 – Why should people care about Vision Zero/Safe Transportation



Question 2 – Who Needs to Hear This?



Question 3 – How do we reach the people who need to hear?



Question 4 – How can you help us reach the people who need to hear?



4. Wrap Up/Next Steps

- Group members should reach out to staff to discuss any topics or items in more detail
- Stay tuned for the final Vision Zero Action Plan in April.
- The next group meeting will be Tuesday, May 4.