

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)  
Wednesday June 10, 2015  
Courthouse Plaza, Birch Room  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Minutes, approved with edits July 8, 2015

Attending: Dennis Jaffe, Chair; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; Dan Foster; Eric Goldstein; David Goodman; Eric Goodman; Tom Kornis; Christine Ng; David Patton; Pamela Van Hine; Collin Weber  
Guests: Richard Viola, DES, and Sara Mariska, The Land Lawyers

Public Speakers: None

**Invited Speaker: Richard Viola, DES, with Sara Mariska, The Land Lawyers, Proposed amendment to the Master Transportation Plan map (MTP)**

R Viola reviewed a proposed amendment to the Master Transportation Plan map to accommodate a land owner at 1801 North Quantico St, where a trail head leads to the Custis Trail above I-66. The proposal would allow the owner to pay for the building of a short, narrow street (approximately 22'w x 60' L) so that the owner would have the necessary street frontage to build a house on this triangular piece of land. The County has held the right of way for this trail head for more than 100 years, which is why the amendment is needed if the house is to be built. PAC members were relatively neutral about any pedestrian impact from the proposal, but were very concerned about the possible loss of major trees. The chair asked E Goldstein to summarize PAC concerns and recommendation that Mr. Viola and Ms. Mariska also bring the issue to the Parks & Recreation and the Environment and Energy Conservation Commissions. PAC questions included whether removed trees could be replaced and whether the proposed road could be shortened to lessen the impact on major tree loss. The PAC may have additional comments after the environmental groups have reviewed the proposal. Both speakers reassured the PAC that bollards would be placed at the new trail head, any parking would not impede pedestrian/bike access, and that appropriate trail signage would be added. The Planning Commission will review on July 6, and the County Board will review on July 18, with public comments allowed.

**Approval of April and May PAC minutes**

After appropriate motions and comments, the PAC members present approved both the April and May minutes with minor changes. P Van Hine will make edits and send to D Goodman to post on the PAC website.

**News boxes (D Jaffe, D Patton)**

D Patton discussed recent e-mail correspondence from Steve Yaffe, Transit Operations Manager and others about news box issues. The PAC committee agreed with his assessment that it was time to send prior PAC recommendations about news boxes to relevant Arlington parties and that these PAC recommendations were congruent with issues raised in the e-mail correspondence. The chair reiterated that news boxes was one of several issues that he would raise with Mark Schwartz, Deputy County Manager. Other issues will include approval of the current PAC membership list and officers and discussing how to improve PAC input into the Arlington budget process.

**Report a Problem (RAP) Problems (Pamela Van Hine)**

P Van Hine distributed copies of her RAP review, Arlington's Report a Problem website – how well does it work for pedestrian issues. While the RAP website was displayed on the room's screen, she commented on different sections of the website – from the Learn about the tool page, the link to the Arlington A to Z page, and the 15 categories of problem categories, though none of these categories came up when searching for “pedestrian”, “walking”, or “bicycle”. She demonstrated that when the display of reported problems was switched to List, users could search for reported problems that used words such as “pedestrian.” Her analysis shows some of the many creative ways that pedestrians report their issues.

P Van Hine will post her report through GoogleDocs for PAC review and will ask for feedback on her report and on the current RAP system. A PAC member reported a disappointing response to a RAP posting about a damaged bus stop. Although reported twice, the problem was not fixed, and the RAP posting disappeared!

RAP staff are currently evaluating whether to try to revise the current RAP system while continuing to use its software or to develop an in-house system that might better meet Arlingtonian's needs. One question raised was whether any city was currently using the software successfully. Claudia O'Connor, DES staff, will come to the July PAC meeting to discuss RAP.

### **Sycamore Street Complete Street design and Lee Highway "Multi-modal Needs Assessment" study draft (D Goodman)**

D Goodman gave PAC members a sneak preview of these two projects. The Sycamore Street project features separate pedestrian and bike spaces, including a "Dutch" intersection that keeps both pedestrians and cyclists in their own lanes in the intersection. Turning cars would face these lanes before turning, which should be much safer for everyone.

The Lee Highway study is still in draft, though D Goodman quickly noted some of its highlights. He will provide a link to the study when it is available. The area impacted will be from Spout Run to Quantico or Lexington Drive.

### **Boundary Channel Drive Interchange Project Public Information Meeting, Tuesday, June 23, 6:30PM, Aurora Hills Community Center**

The PAC was given copies of a flyer for this important upcoming meeting. As this project will have a huge impact on drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians in negotiating this area (Boundary Channel Drive, I-395 between Pentagon City and the 14<sup>th</sup> Street bridge, and Long Bridge Park and Drive), PAC staff encouraged PAC members to attend.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM. The next PAC meeting will be held Wednesday July 8 in the Cherry & Dogwood room, across the hall from Birch.