

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)
Wednesday, September 9, 2015
Courthouse Plaza, Birch Room
2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Minutes (approved with edit October 14, 2015)

Present Dennis Jaffe, Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Vice Chair; Ellen Armbruster; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; Dan Foster; Eric Goldstein; David Goodman; Eric Goodman; Lauren Hassel; Christine Ng; David Patton

No public speaker; Invited speaker was Bridget Obikoya, MOT

Invited Speaker: Bridget Obikoya, Maintenance of Traffic Plans (MOT)

B Obikoya has worked in MOT [Maintenance of Traffic] since 2008, developing hundreds of MOT site plans for Arlington construction projects that impact the public right of way [ROW]. The MOT site plans are designed to encourage non-vehicular traffic that supports pedestrians, cyclists, the disabled, and mass transit users. Many “standard” site plans can follow existing state Typical Traffic Control [TTC] plans for both vehicular and pedestrian routes, and she showed illustrations of both TTC plans. However, any deviations from TTC require site plans unique to the construction site.

She noted that because MOT has only two inspectors, reporting of possible site plan violations by others is encouraged. She suggested several ways to report possible problems, including using Report a Problem, calling 703-228- 3629, or e-mailing dsbcustserv@arlingtonva.us. She also noted that construction sites that were not in compliance were given stop work orders.

PAC members' questions focused on how to prevent contractor violations before reaching the point where stop work orders are necessary and initiated. E Goodman noted that the minimum acceptance criteria did not define ADA requirements and other pedestrian issues. He and B Obikoya agreed to work together on drafting some more specific guidelines, with the encouragement of the PAC.

D Goodman provided the PAC with the relevant websites:

This is the county's guidelines for getting a permit to work within the right of way.

<http://topics.arlingtonva.us/permits-licenses/public-right-way-permit-guide/>

This is the minimum acceptance standards for right of way permitting.

<https://topics.arlingtonva.us/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2013/12/Minimum-Acceptance-Criteria-and-Guidelines.pdf>

WalkArlington update:

Lauren Hassel of WalkArlington distributed samples of their new bookmarks and revised Walkabout brochures. She noted that the new edition of the newsletter is now online and mentioned several upcoming events, including the October pedestrian summit. Visit WalkArlington to learn more: <http://www.walkarlington.com/>

Approval of minutes from August 12 PAC meeting: Because of time limitations, the PAC voted to discuss and approve the August minutes at the October 14 meeting. The Vice Chair requested that members send any recommended edits in the next week.

Ballston Pedestrian Bridge Update:

The Chair summarized comments and recommendations from the August PAC meeting in which the PAC unanimously voted to draft a letter in support of keeping a pedestrian bridge to the Ballston Mall. Following that meeting the Vice Chair and E Goldstein drafted a letter, distributed at this meeting. The Vice Chair summarized her consultations with S Byrd, the SPRC Coordinator, J Gabor, the DOT contact for the Ballston project, and the Ballston BID and Ballston-Virginia Square Community Association. E Armbruster has been attending the Ballston SPRC meetings as the PAC representative. She noted that the current mall tenants will be moving out and much of the current mall – including where the current bridge connects to the mall – will be coming down. She also noted that NSF will be moving out in 2017, and that other pedestrian issues may arise with the project that we may want to address. She encouraged us to more comprehensively review pedestrian related issues and consider integrating our pedestrian bridge concerns into a letter addressing additional relevant issues. She indicated that some these other issues may soon get resolved and promised to speak for us at the upcoming SPRC meeting September 16. The Chair requested that Ellen prepare for PAC members in advance of our October 14th meeting a memo on these issues, to better inform us on the project's relevant pedestrian issues. She agreed. She will also keep us informed about any pedestrian issues that come up at future Ballston SPRC meetings. For more information on the Ballston redevelopment, review the Ballston Quarter Redevelopment website: <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/ballston-common/>

South Walter Reed Drive Improvement Project – Follow-up (see December 2014 and July and August 2015 PAC minutes).

The Chair and E Goldstein summarized the results of their meeting with V Mosley, L Marcus, C Slatt, and the bike/ped staff about plans for the slip lane at the WRD/AMD project. Discussed revisions include moving the crosswalk further away from WRD to improve pedestrian visibility and an option eliminating the planned second crosswalk across WMD, which would allow staff to eliminate one of two left turn lanes from AMD to WMD and to enlarge the island. Staff will also be gathering new traffic data and they plan to widen ramps and crosswalk lines. Details on specific signage and signaling have not been finalized. V Mosley will be our guest speaker, with updates on the project, at the October 14 PAC meeting. For more information on the project, visit this website:

<http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/south-walter-reed-drive-improvements-arlington-mill-drive-four-mile-run-drive/>

Meetings between the Chair and the ActingCounty Manager and between the Chair, Vice Chair and key DOT staff:

The Chair reported that after he contacted the ActingCounty Manager again in late August to follow up on PAC appointments, County officials e-mailed PAC members official appointment letters. The Chair then summarized comments from an August 20 meeting with the Vice Chair, and DES staff D Goodman, R Viola, and T Bruccoleri about how to better involve the PAC in relevant DOT projects and how to improve the dissemination of relevant DOT project information to bike/ped staff.

The meeting was adjourned 9:15. The next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, October 14, at 7PM in the Dogwood-Cherry Conference Rooms.