

January 21, 2016

Mr. Mark Schwartz  
Arlington County Manager  
2100 Clarendon Blvd  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

**Committee Members**  
Dennis Jaffe, Chair  
Pam VanHine, Vice Chair  
Ellen Armbruster  
Rosemary Ciotti  
Jim Feaster  
Eric Goodman  
Tom Kornis  
Eric Goldstein  
Christine Ng  
John Armstrong  
Dan Foster  
Collin Weber

*re: Proposed Neighborhood Complete Streets Program -- Support*

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

The Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) supports for many reasons your proposal to formally establish the Neighborhood Complete Streets (NCS) program. We commend you on your forward-thinking vision. We view the proposal as helping to ensure that Arlington maintains its well-earned national reputation as a great place to live, work and play. We wish to articulate from our perspective the merits of your proposal, and are hopeful that the County Board will act favorably on it.

### **NCS responsibly aligns with and effectuates the Pedestrian Element of the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) and the PAC's Charter**

The goals of the MTP are supported by 27 strategy directives. The second directive specific to pedestrians is to construct and manage streets to be “**complete streets**” which are safe and conveniently accessible for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, and other users.

NCS projects would help to maximize the accessibility, convenience, safety and enjoyment of the pedestrian network for all pedestrians in Arlington. The current Pedestrian Element (2008) of the MTP predates NCS, and thus does not specifically mention NCS. The underlying purpose of NCS, however, is clearly incorporated into the MTP: “**Completing the walkway network** – A principal strategy of the MTP is the provision of safe and convenient pedestrian facilities along all streets” (MTP PE III, p. 4).

### **The proposed NCS program process is open, transparent, and fair**

It is important to recognize that the NCS program is being proposed to augment two existing programs. The Complete Streets program that is already in place focuses on *arterial* streets. The well-established Neighborhood Conservation program makes valuable improvements to *local neighborhood* streets. The proposed Neighborhood Complete Streets would build on both programs by including *streets in local neighborhoods as well as the community-at-large*, and by offering an additional participatory mechanism for the Arlington community and the County government to implement completion of the walkway network by considering projects that “ensure health, safety and welfare of all its residents” (MTP PE III.1.c, p. 5).

**Mr. Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager**  
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The proposed NCS would have these unique attributes, while complementing the NC program:

- County government staff, Arlington citizens, and/or Arlington civic associations will be able to nominate projects
- Projects will be ranked by explicit and fair criteria that balance existing conditions with the transportation needs of the specific area, including access to transit, public facilities, and parks and recreation
- Each project will have a custom engagement plan responsive to the affected communities
- The status and ranking of proposals and listing of relevant resources, such as an interactive map, will be accessible and highlighted

We again commend you for developing and presenting to the County Board the Neighborhood Complete Streets proposal -- and, indeed, for fostering among staff and integral advisory bodies, such as the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, an environment in which constructive ideas, such as those inherent in this proposal, are conceived of and advanced. We are confident that incorporating the NCS proposal into *The Arlington Way* will be a substantially positive step toward achieving a completed walkway network in Arlington, accessible for and utilized by all.

Sincerely,



Dennis Jaffe  
 Chair, Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee

**Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee**

**Charter**

*The PAC will advise the County Manager on issues that impact the quality of pedestrian life in Arlington County, including, but not limited to: safety, health, access and mobility, maintenance and development, and the recognition of pedestrian activities as fundamental to a complete transportation system."*

Additionally, the PAC's scope of issues includes implementation of the pedestrian and streets elements of the MTP, accessibility, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, innovative or best practices, and promoting citizen advocacy for place-making and improved quality of public space.

cc: County Board Chair Libby Garvey and Members of County Board  
 Richard Viola and David Goodman/Arlington Transportation Division  
 Members of Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
 Chair, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee  
 Chair, Transportation Commission  
 Chair, Bicycling Advisory Committee  
 Chair, Transit Advisory Committee