

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)
Special Event: Walk Hack Night II
WeWork Crystal City
2221 S Clark St
Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Minutes, approved unanimously, without change, March 8, 2017

Present: Pamela Van Hine, Chair; Ellen Armbruster; John Armstrong; Rosemary Ciotti; Jim Feaster; David Goodman; Eric Goodman; Alli Henry; Tom Korn; Christine Ng; David Patton; and approximately 50 other meeting participants

The PAC substituted its regularly scheduled February meeting time, place, and format for participation in a special pedestrian event, Walk Hack Night II, which met from 6 PM – 8PM on Wednesday, February 8, in WeWork Crystal City. Walk Hack Night was a “show & tell of projects, apps, and data visualizations about pedestrians and the walking experience.”

[Michael Schade](#), the organizer and host of this [Transportation Techies Meetup event](#), introduced the speakers and let audience members make announcements. The PAC Chair thanked him and Alli Henry for encouraging PAC participation in this meeting and encouraged Walk Hack participants to attend future PAC meetings.

The Walk Hack presenters were:

[Andrew Mondschein](#), University of Virginia, demonstrated and discussed how his team was using students wearing data-gathering sensors to collect [walkability data on Tysons Corner](#). He also compared the benefits of gathering data from wearable sensors to free-standing sensors. His slide presentation is available upon request.

[Aaron Ogle](#) covered the [past 11 year evolution](#) of [Walkshed](#) (the area, from a specific geographic point, that can comfortably or conveniently be covered on foot) . He was first inspired by an online blogger who [wrote about going car-free](#) for a year in Seattle by identifying and using resources within a one-mile radius of his home – the original WalkShed concept. Mr. Ogle refined the original concept by accounting for obstacles and barriers in the Walkshed area. The current Walkshed tool is [here](#).

Amir Farhangi and Matt Triner of District Ninja reviewed how they derived their [District of Pedestrians](#) data from existing [Vision Zero DC data](#), a model for using crowd-sourcing to gather data on near misses. These data are useful to urban planners, traffic engineers, enforcement, and, of course, pedestrians. Their trend data illustrated the value of helping and <http://district.ninja/the-vision-zero-initiative-part-1-district-of-pedestrians/> encouraging users to submit reports; without assistance reporting rates dropped significantly.

Chris Fricke of [Geometri](#) showed us how Bluetooth sensors in store overhead lighting can track customers through the store.

Michael Schade demonstrated two projects. He first showed how he used [Walkscore's API](#) to build his Arlington [Walkshed](#) program, which can help users find real-time transit options. The Comfort Level Bike Portal is also incorporated. His second demonstration was based upon the [Square Mile Street Network Visualization Project](#), which was recently publicized in a [Next City article](#). Mr. Schade displayed several black & white street grid maps of our region that he created and that clearly showed locations of transportation accessibility problems. Slides from his presentation are here ([MAPS + DATA + APIS = WALKABILITY](#), [Arlington Travelshed](#), [Grid tools](#)).

The final speaker was [Manaswi Saha](#), a graduate student in the University of Maryland Human-Computer Interface Program Makeability Lab. She is part of a multi-part, multi-year team working on [Project Sidewalk](#), which is gathering data on conditions of sidewalks and intersections in the District that are barriers for pedestrians with mobility impairments and developing user apps for accessing these data. Data gathering currently relies on having trained individuals use Google Street View to note conditions at each intersection. They started gathering data in the fall of 2016 and have completed 44% of the District's intersections. Planned apps will include smart-routing interfaces for all types of users. Project Sidewalk is a model for creating accessible pathways for pedestrians with mobility impairments and for mapping sidewalk and intersection conditions for urban planning and pedestrian safety projects. Her presentation slides are [here](#).

Andrew Carpenter recently published a [summary](#) of Walk Hack Night II through the Mobility Lab website.

The next PAC meeting will return to our normal venue and time – [Wednesday, March 8, 7 PM](#), in the Dogwood & Cherry Rooms in Courthouse Plaza.