

Arlington Bike Advisory Committee
3 April 2016 Meeting
2100 Clarendon Blvd. Arlington, VA 22201
Notes – Approved by the BAC 1 May 2017

Gillian Burgess, Dana Bres, William Fuchs, Eric Goodman, Mike Hanna, Dwight Hlustick, Steve Offutt, Cynthia Palmer, Chris Slatt,

County Staff: Henry Dunbar, David Goodman, David Patton, Kevin Stalica, Mark Schnauffer (DES), Bernadette Grullon (DPR)

Guests: Jerry Dance

Call to order, introductions

March 2017 notes were approved.

Gillian Burgess reported that Arlington County Public Schools would report on cycling activities next month.

Crystal City: 12th Street South project - Mark Schnauffer (DES)

Discussed the project which would address the roadway between S Eads and S Clark in Crystal City. This is a one block section of 12th Street from Long Bridge Drive to Eads Street. The primary effort for this project will be to extend the transit lanes along 12th Street. This will create center bus lanes with auto traffic on the outside lanes.

This project will provide a bike connection between Army-Navy Drive and the Crystal City Metro Station. Along Clark Street, there will be a bike lane (not part of this project).

Mark Schnauffer said that the span of the Route 1 Bridge provided space for off road bike lanes. Mark Schnauffer said that there would be a new signal installed along 12th Street to allow the busses to get into the center bus lanes. He said that the new signal would be integrated into the project and would be controlled with the other signals by a single control box. Gillian Burgess asked about signal timing for the signal at Army-Navy Drive (which will not be installed for about a year following completion of the project). The signal at Army-Navy will be installed to permit the bus transitway to function.

Chris Slatt suggested that the bike lanes at 12th and Clark should have a bikebox to better permit cyclists to make a right turn.

Gillian Burgess asked to create some mode separation to keep the peds and cyclists apart. The general thought was to have the cycle tracks nearer to the roadway. Mark Schnauffer said that they were planning on painting the bike lanes nearest to the curb. Mark Schnauffer said that the project would tie into an Army-Navy cycle track and into the planned two-way cycle track on Clark (between 12th and 18th).

There was extensive discussion about how cyclists would connect between the cycle tracks on Long Bridge Drive, 12th Street, and Clark. This included discussion about where cyclists would wait for the signals and the need for queuing areas.

Mark Schnauer indicated that he would take the comments provided to the designer for incorporation into the ongoing design effort.

Gillian Burgess asked Arlington County staff to ensure the curb cuts were fully considered to make for the most effective design.

Department of Parks and Recreation – Bernadette Grullon

Custis Undulations (west of McCoy Park)

The outcome of the geotech study found that there was some loose (uncompacted) clay soil under the pavement (up to 18 inches). The recommendation is to remove the pavement and 2 feet of soil followed by installing compacted subgrade followed by repaving. It appears that this will be a single effort (not piecemeal) along the length of the undulation. The geotech has developed some preliminary drawings and a cost estimate. The costs will be shared with VDOT. The project will require a VDOT permit and a land disturbance permit from Arlington County.

Once the drawings are finalized and the VDOT/DES permits are in place, it will take about a month to put it out to bid, about a month to review and award the contract, and the work itself will take about a month. Because the permit process was a bit unknown, the schedule cannot be defined. Gillian Burgess asked for regular updates on this process as it winds itself through the permitting.

The estimated cost of the project is not available (it is embargoed pending the bidding process) but the necessary funding for this project is available in the budgeted trails modernization budget. The BAC was assured that adequate funding for the effort was available in the DPR budget.

Steve Offutt asked about the scope of the project as Arlington County had repaired this section of the trail several times in the past. Kevin indicated that the trail has been repaved twice in 15 years. There was some discussion of how unconsolidated clay could continue to consolidate for that period. If the “loose clay” extends to significant depth, it could be questioned whether removing two feet would net a permanent solution.

David Goodman indicated that if there were problems with the VDOT permitting, DES could help with coordination.

Dana Bres requested a copy of the engineering report and Bernadette Grullon indicated she would provide one.

Gillian Burgess asked Bernadette Grullon about the availability of the trails modernization budget, particularly with respect to the impact of paying for this project.

Bernadette Grullon indicated the budget was adequate to pay for this project, without getting into any real specifics.

Mosaic Park

DPR and DES staff have been working together regarding the alignment along Quincy Street. David Goodman reports that they have worked an alignment that would permit a PBL along Quincy alongside the park with relatively little impact to the park (and no impact to the park amenities). Some of the parking spaces will be moved with no impact to parking. Mike Hanna asked if the changes would affect any impermeable area and was told that the changes would be “trivial”. David Goodman said that they had to figure out how the adjustments get paid for. The timeline for the park awaits the agreement between DPR and DES, getting the project value engineered, and getting it rebid. Bernadette Grullon indicated that they hope to get the contract effort out for bid this year.

Benjamin Banneker Park

Funding for the portion of the trail at Banneker will be provided out of the trails modernization program. The project is on schedule. The consultant has developed some preliminary concepts, which would be presented to the community later in the week. The BAC asked when the presentation will be provided to the BAC.

Gillian Burgess stressed the need for greater Parks engagement with the BAC. Bernadette Grullon indicated that the DPR planning staff would engage with the BAC more than in the past and would begin attending the BAC meetings in the future.

David Goodman discussed the linkages between the WO&D overpass project and the BB Park project. He indicated that there were DES Transportation staff involved in both WO&D overpass and Banneker Park projects so the parks-transportation lashup was solid. He suggested that the two projects were independent and that there was little need to have the projects more coordinated. David Goodman suggested that the Banneker Park project was not part of the long-term solution for the neighborhood’s problems.

Gillian Burgess asked Bernadette Grullon to ensure that the BAC was more engaged in the trails budgeting process.

Review of snow clearing - Dana Bres

Dana Bres suggested that the BAC prepare a review of the snow clearing in Arlington County. The recent snow resulted in street and parking lot (both public and private) clearing resulted in blockage of the openings to the protected and buffered bike lanes.

NPS: MVT Call - Gillian Burgess

Gillian Burgess indicated that the NPS GWMP had invited several individuals to participate in a call regarding trails and safety on the GWMP MVT. This call will be held on Friday 7 Apr.

It appeared that the NPS was concerned about the potential for conflicts between trail users.

There was some discussion of the snow clearing on the NPS GWMP. It was unclear what the snow plan was for the MVT or other trails in the GWMP.

Proposed budget cuts: snow removal and street/trail lighting - Gillian Burgess

In December, the County Board asked the Manager to look at the budget with cuts that would reduce the budget by 1% (\$0.01). The Manager provide a listing of the items that could be cut (there was some discussion about whether this was a proposal being advocated by the Manager or a series of options the Board could select from). The base budget would have funded an inventory of trail lighting and the transfer of the trail lighting function to DES. One of the options provided by the Manager was to eliminate the increase for trail lighting.

In March 2017, the County Manager indicated that the DES had responsibility for trail lighting. Kevin Stalica indicated that Mr. Schwartz formally assigned responsibility for trail lighting to DES, regardless of the budget consideration of the function. There was a motion (which carried) to write a letter to the Arlington County Manager commending him for his decision to assign responsibility for trail lighting to DES.

As part of the cost cutting proposals, DPR suggested that about \$50,000 could be saved by eliminating the priority clearing of trails and clearing the trails following clearing parking lots. If Parks provided priority clearing of the trails, the depreciation of the trail clearing equipment would be charged to the budget, but not if it weren't a priority. Gillian Burgess indicated that this was Arlington County not considering trails as transportation.

Steve Offutt indicated that the Board's stated goals of getting the County to LAB Gold level and such actions were inconsistent with that of a Gold level community. Gillian Burgess said that the concept of trails as transportation was critical for the County to advocate for increasing cycling in Arlington.

There was some discussion about whether the BAC should advise the Arlington County Board (as opposed to advising the County Manager).

Gillian Burgess suggested that the BAC should strongly advise the County Manager about the need for trail clearing and trail lighting in the budget. A motion to write a letter to the Manager was passed.

BikeArlington: Preparing for bike month - Henry Dunbar

Henry reported that the planning for BTWD was progressing and that Arlington County would have several pit stops, including some afternoon stops.

Henry reported that BA did a ride with the Police Chief and others in March. The discussion was reported as constructive. He indicated that the Police Department was including enforcement on cyclist behaviors and related that a cyclist had been recently cited for a right on red violation (at an intersection marked “No right on red”).

Updates from DES – David Goodman/David Patton

Quincy Street

David Goodman reports that Quincy will be repaved, except near Mosaic Park (pending the park work).

Lynn and Lee

Because of construction near the intersection of Lynn and Lee (IOD), trail traffic has been pushed from the trail which is adjacent to the I66 off ramp to the driveway about 25 feet to the north. Riders on that detour then begin to cross Lynn at the driveway curb cut about 20 feet north of the corner.



The problem with this bike detour is that motorists turning right from the off-ramp may be unfamiliar with the change and could assume there are no cyclists. This issue was discussed and it seems that more than a few traffic cones/barrels are necessary to alert motorists.

Washington Blvd (Westover) bike lane – David Goodman

Following the public meeting in March, DES got a number of comments (over 450). They have been sorting the comments into major themes (impacts to parking, impacts to church parking, road will be more/less dangerous, better/worse for the community). The proximate neighbors seemed to be less favorably disposed to support for the bike

lanes. Staff has been asked to consider alternatives that minimize the parking impacts and they will propose their recommended alternative on 19 April. David Goodman indicated that elimination of the bus stop at the Lutheran Church (because of low bus stop use), may address some of the parking changes. David Goodman said the last block as Washington gets to Sycamore Street will likely be sharrows for the downhill (with a bike lane on the uphill).

Updating the bike element of the MTP - David Goodman, David Patton

Chris Slatt is chairing the effort. Henry Dunbar reported that he has been reaching out to some new blood to participate in the group.

David Goodman suggested that the group may focus on the policy components first and then address the bike network. He said that the bike network process would need a great deal of outreach.

Capital Projects – David Patton

David Patton reported that there were several intersections (near the Barcroft Recreation Center, Oakland, and George Mason) along the Custis and the W&OD (Custis and W&OD Safety) had been advertised (Valerie Mosely is the project manager).

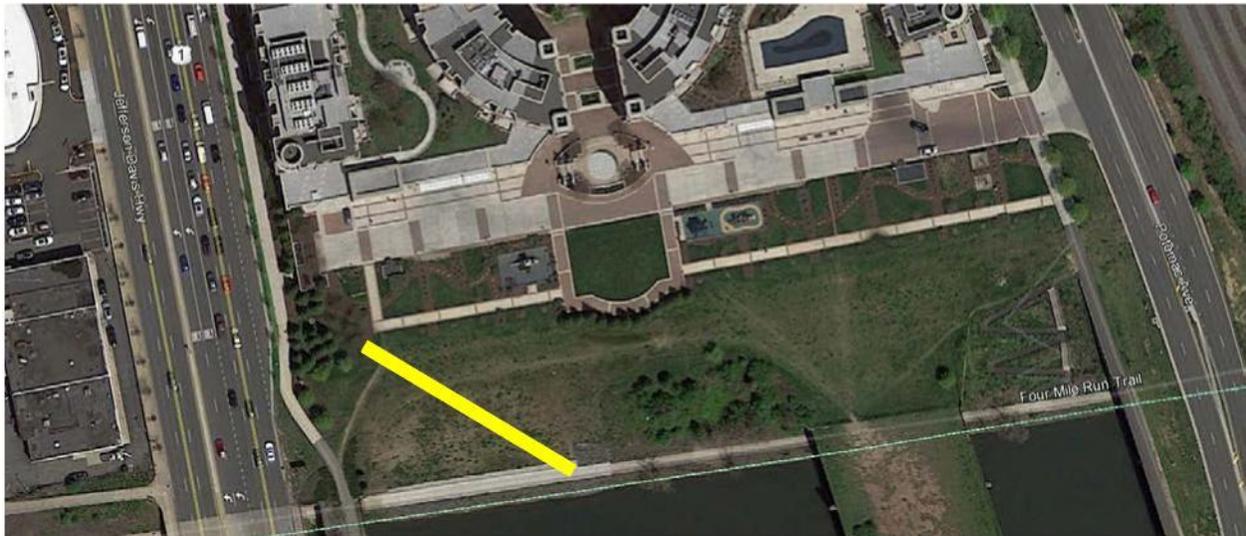
Rosslyn and Lee Highway/Custis Trail (Tom Hutchings is the project manager). There was some discussion of new detour at the IOD, where the cyclists are now forced to cross Lynn outside of the crosswalk. Gillian Burgess indicated that westbound cyclists are at disadvantage. Steve Offutt suggested that Tom Hutchings should go down and watch during the evening rush hour. Gillian Burgess suggested a temporary sign to warn motorists.

Changes to Bike Lanes - Steve Offutt

Steve addressed the issue with the loss of the bike lane marking on Army Navy west of Joyce. David Goodman said that the road markings would be replaced “this year” after the road is sealed. Gillian Burgess asked David Goodman to take a look at the sealing/remarking time and put up a sign if it will take more than a month.

South Park

Dana Bres reported that he attended a meeting about South Park (the new park between Crystal City and Four Mile Run east of Route 1. The Arlington plan has a trail connection that will extend from the FMR trail to the northwest towards US1 (shown below). The problem seems to be that cyclists will be forced onto the sidewalk along US1 and then will have to get back to Potomac Avenue. David Goodman suggested that the northwest alignment was necessitated by the grade (and the abutments from the remaining park bridge). David Goodman said that the trail alignment was being managed by DES and DES staff is engaged with Parks in the planning effort. David Goodman suggested the he would have the Arlington County project manager attend a future meeting.



BikeArlington (submitted in advance by Henry Dunbar)

Happened:

- Attended the League of American Bicyclists National Bike Summit
- Arlington Age 55+ Adult Learn to Ride Class with Parks & Rec, March 10 – taught or brushed up skills for 6 enthusiastic seniors
- Pi(e) Day Ride – postponed due to weather event, held in partnership with Trek-Clarendon shop and had 25+ attendees come along for free pie at 4 stops
- ACPD Crystal City Bike Tour – 3/24 – Took 6 ACPD staff, including the Chief of Police and other high ranking staff on a guided tour of Arlington bike infrastructure to get them out of their cruisers and to provide them with a handlebar view of riding Arlington's streets

Happening in the Next Month (or so):

- Bike to Work Day registration is open! www.BikeToWorkMetroDC.org - Currently more than 700 attendees have registered for 8 pitstops. We hope to be close to 3000 registrations for the 5/19 event.
- National Walking Day – 4/5
- Discovery Elementary Family Fitness Night – 4/18
- DEA Earth Day Fair – 4/20

Upcoming classes:

- Learn to Ride – 4/8, 4/29, 5/20, 6/4, 6/17
- City Cycling – 4/30, 6/18
- Community Rides – 4/12 Crystal City Automatic Ride, 5/24 TBD, 6/14 – Taco'bout Some Art Rosslyn Ride