

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022, 7 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair James Lewis, Vice Chair Ann Tucker, Lavonda Bonnard, Annie Ebbers, Casey Kane, Ashley Mihalik, and Jason Osborne

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: T&ES – Hillary Orr, Deputy Director; Alex Block, Principal Planner, Cuong Nguyen, Civil Engineer, and Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II.

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.
2. Approval of the May 23, 2022, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane offered three corrections to the May 23 meeting minutes:

- Clarify that Sean Palmer’s public comment concerned pedestrian wait times during traffic signal cycles,
- Clarify that Mr. Kane’s update to the Board was based on his participation on the Transportation Commission, and
- Provide the full name of the Eisenhower West Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group

Ms. Tucker moved approval of the minutes with the corrections from Mr. Kane. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

3. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on Eisenhower pedestrian crossing improvements as well as the implementation status of bike parking on the 500 block of Mt. Vernon Avenue.
4. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:**

Carloyn Griglione testified in favor of installing artistic crosswalk designs near the intersection of Library Lane and Seminary Road. Mr. Kane asked staff if this is something the City is considering. Ms. Orr noted that the City is not opposed to art, but has concerns with maintenance and equitable distribution of resources. Mr. Osborne asked if there are other plans for the area; Ms. Orr noted this is a high-crash area, and the City was recently awarded a Safe Routes to School Grant that includes this area, and will be asking the Council for additional funding.

Lisa Porter spoke about a pedestrian struck with serious injuries on June 15, 2022 at the intersection of Janney’s Lane and East and West Taylor Run, noting a history of incidents

at this location. Ms. Ebbers asked Staff about the City's response; Ms. Orr noted the city implemented a project at this location five years ago. At that time, the intersection did not meet the warrants for further interventions, but the City is now reviewing the newer data to update the analysis. She noted it's a challenging design issue, but stop signs are a possible solution.

Justin Sparrow spoke about parking concerns from the future Minnie Howard school project and emphasized the neighborhood's desire for zoned parking restrictions. Mr. Block noted he has been in contact with the neighbors and is working with them on options for how to pursue a residential parking district.

CONSENT ITEMS

Without objection, the Board asked for a presentation on the single item on the consent agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

5. **ISSUE:** Consideration of intersection improvements at Potomac Avenue and Glebe Road

DISCUSSION: Ms. Orr presented the item to the Board, including an overview of the entire project, but noting that the Board's purview is the change of lane designation. Ms. Ebbers asked about future plans for expanding transit priority to the west; Ms. Orr noted that nothing is imminent, but will be part of the eventual redevelopment of the Potomac Yard shopping center. Mr. Kane commented that the pavers in the design must be non-slip. He also asked if the traffic signal cycle will include an all-red cycle to allow for bike and pedestrian movements without vehicle turning conflicts. Ms. Orr noted this was not fully determined yet, but that it will include 'no turn on Red' restrictions. Mr. Kane also asked about the legal status of bikes using the pedestrian signals; Ms. Orr wasn't sure and said Staff would research and report back to the Board.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Stephen Milone spoke on this item, asked about the legal status of bicyclists using pedestrian signals for traffic movements. He also asked the City to re-evaluate the existing shared use path along the east side of Potomac Ave and look at the design in neighboring Arlington County.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane moved to approve the change of lane designation; Ms. Ebbers seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

6. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to install all-way stop control at the intersection of Vassar Place and Dartmouth Road.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Nguyen presented the item to the Board, noting that the City is recommending against the request because the intersection does not meet the warrants for all-way stop control. Mr. Kane noted that many intersections do not meet the warrants,

and asked about alternative designs, such as traffic circles. Ms. Orr responded noting that traffic volumes at this location are very low and there is no crash history. Regarding traffic circles, she noted the City has received pushback for that kind of design in other neighborhoods, and the installation expense is substantially greater than stop signs. Given the level of resources involved, the City has a mandate to equitably use those resources.

Following public testimony, Ms. Mihalik asked if there's any cost difference with warning signs vs. a stop sign; Ms. Orr said there was no significant difference in cost. Mr. Osborne asked if cost is the concern here; Ms. Orr said it was not a concern for a stop sign, the reason Staff recommend against a sign is because it does not meet the MUTCD guidelines. The big concern is that most traffic is local, and without meeting the warrants for traffic volume, many drivers will roll through the sign, and low compliance is not in anyone's interest. The MUTCD provides flexibility for engineering judgement, but based on Staff's experience it is not warranted here.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Hillary Wanke testified in support of the stop sign, noting that there is no opposition of this at all, except from City staff. She also provided a map indicating this intersection is the only one in the area without all-way stop control. Mr. Kane asked Ms. Wanke if she and her neighbors considered traffic circles or other designs; Ms. Wanke said they had not and assumed a stop sign was the simplest and cheapest option. Roy Byrd of the Clover College Park Civic Association testified in support, asking that the City's actions be proactive and prevent crashes, rather than wait for a child to be hit. Lisa Porter testified via Zoom in support, noting that the staff report did not mention the topography of the area and the impact on driver speed. Doug Craig testified in support, noting that stop signs also need to be enforced.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Osborne moved to recommend the Director of T&ES install all-way stop control at the intersection of Dartmouth Road and Vassar Place. Ms. Bonnard seconded the motion; it carried unanimously. Ms. Tucker asked if the Board would receive an update on this; Ms. Orr said yes, if the Director decides to reject the Board's recommendation, the Board will be notified in writing.

7. **ISSUE:** Consideration of Curbside Loading locations.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item, documenting Staff recommendations for permanent loading and curbside pickup zones based on business feedback from the temporary program implemented during the pandemic. Ms. Tucker asked where Café Del Ray conducts loading and Mr. Devilliers responded that their loading currently occurs and will mostly continue to occur on Mount Vernon Avenue due to the size of most freight vehicles. Mr. Osborne asked how these zones will be enforced and Mr. Devilliers responded that the Parking Enforcement Officers would do their best as they patrol, however, the City would be relying on interested parties such as business owners to call violations into the police non-emergency line. Ms. Tucker asked about what happens when one or more of these zones is no longer needed because businesses close and Mr. Block responded that these zones can be removed as easily as they are installed through an administrative process and the restrictions that preceded the zone would simply be reinstated. Mr. Kane asked about the exact location for each of these zones and Mr. Block

responded that there are slides depicting the exact location for each of these zones but he had accidentally sent the PowerPoint to the Board later in the afternoon than usual. Mr. Kane asked if there would be strategy in place to ensure that the vehicles using these zones don't obstruct crosswalks and Mr. Devilliers responded that the number of signs needed for each zone to ensure drivers are aware of exactly where the zone starts and ends have been recorded and shared with the signs installation team. Mr. Lewis asked what the definition of "Active" is in this case and Mr. Block responded that the Police Department defines it as 10 to 20 minutes at most of loading activity. Mr. Lewis asked about the yellow color on the signs and its effect on Alexandria's eligibility for professional filming. Mr. Block responded that film crews often remove parking-related signs as necessary for filming and these would fall under that. Mr. Lewis requested that we look into this kind of signage for off-street spaces. Mr. Lewis also raised that there are many homemade versions of these temporary pickup signs that need to be removed, particularly on the 900 block of North Saint Asaph Street. The Board also raised the concern that DSUPs for these businesses and the buildings they occupy must be considered prior to installing new signage that may contradict said DSUP.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: No public witnesses spoke on this item.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve the locations for loading and curbside pickup zones.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. STAFF UPDATES:

Ms. Orr presented an update on the Mount Vernon Avenue North plans. The plans include options and a summary of public feedback for improvements at four separate intersections along Mount Vernon Avenue. The purpose of this presentation is to get initial feedback from the Board; Staff will bring a preferred concept back to the Board for additional feedback.

Ms. Ebbers expressed delight with the 'peanutabout' concept for the Mount Vernon/Glebe intersection. She asked about the lack of bike facilities on the corridor. Ms. Orr noted that the intent is to focus on safety at these four intersections rather than take on a larger corridor plan, but do not want to preclude future corridor improvements.

Mr. Kane supported the amount of traffic calming designs, improving comfort for all users even without dedicated bike facilities. He expressed a preference for Option 1 at Mount Vernon and Russell, as it avoids more conflicts. Mr. Kane asked if the 'peanutabout' option would remove all traffic signals; Ms. Orr noted this was yet to be determined, but likely so. Mr. Kane still liked the concept, but noted that tension between traffic flow and pedestrian safety, but that the design allows for better pedestrian visibility – and represents a huge improvement over the status quo.

9. COMMISSIONER UPDATES:

Mr. Kane provided the Board with the following updates from the Transportation Commission:

The Duke Street in Motion project is proceeding and will meet in the next week; the project team is using the 2000 plans as the starting point.

VDOT updated the Commission on the I-495 Express Lanes study, looking at the beltway from the Springfield 'Mixing Bowl' interchange to the Wilson Bridge. Mr. Kane noted the City has two key concerns – first that any expansion be limited to the existing footprint (VDOT assured any expansion options would be contained within the existing soundwalls), and that any plans must preserve the option for mass transit across the Wilson Bridge. Ms. Orr noted that the City sent a letter to VDOT, posted on the City's website.

Mr. Kane also noted the Commission's public hearing on the City's long range plan, and that the Commission received a presentation on the draft Complete Streets Five Year Plan.

Ms. Tucker and Mr. Kane also asked for additional staff effort to secure WiFi access for Board members; Mr. Block agreed to do so, and noted he personally has difficulty in logging on to the public network at times.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kane moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Ebbers seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.