

TRAFFIC & PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

November 27, 2023

City Hall – Alexandria, VA

Hybrid meeting will start at 7:00 PM



Welcome!

Public Hearing:

Board will receive comments from the public in-person and via Zoom

Three Ways to Speak:

- Via e-mail: signed up in advance
- In-person: use sign-up form at back of the room
- Via Zoom: use 'Raise Hand' feature in Zoom
 - *9 with phone audio

Agenda: November 27, 2023

Welcome & Introductions

1. Deferrals and Withdrawals
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Public Discussion Period
4. Written Staff Updates & Public Hearing Follow-up

Consent Items:

5. All-Way Stop – Cameron and North Payne Streets

Public Hearing Items:

6. All-Way Stop - East Monroe and Leslie Avenues
7. Curbside Pick-up and Loading Zones – 1100 block of Oronoco Street

8. Curbside Pick-up and Loading Zones – 2100 block of Mount Vernon Ave

Information Items:

7. Staff Updates
8. Board Member Updates

Approval of the Minutes

Public Discussion Period

This period is restricted to items NOT listed on the docket

If you would like to speak, please:

- Submit a Public Speaker form (if in person)
- Raise your hand on Zoom (if virtual)

Written Updates & Public Hearing Follow-Up

All-Way Stop – Cameron and North Payne Streets

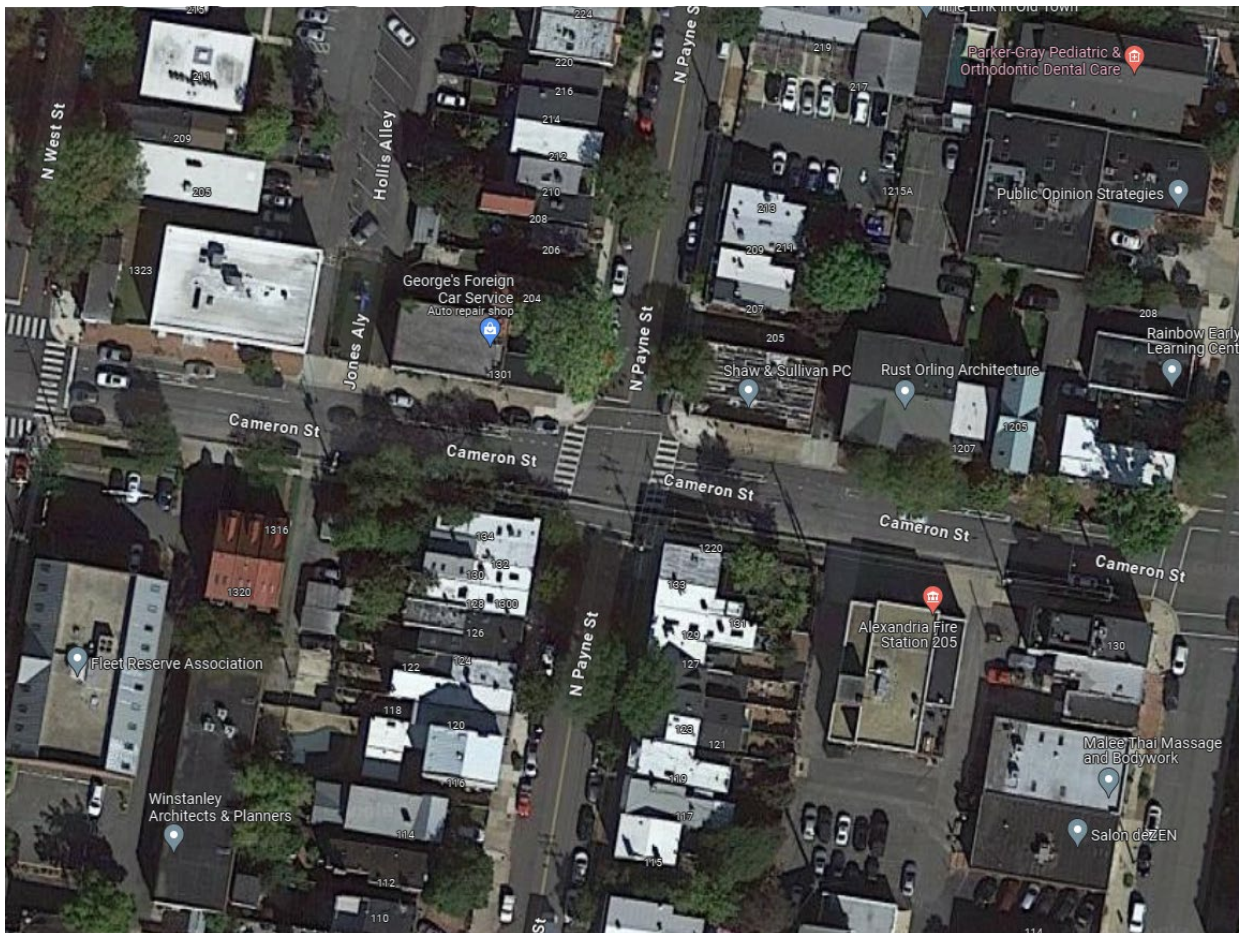
Agenda Item 5

Presenter: Daniel Scolese



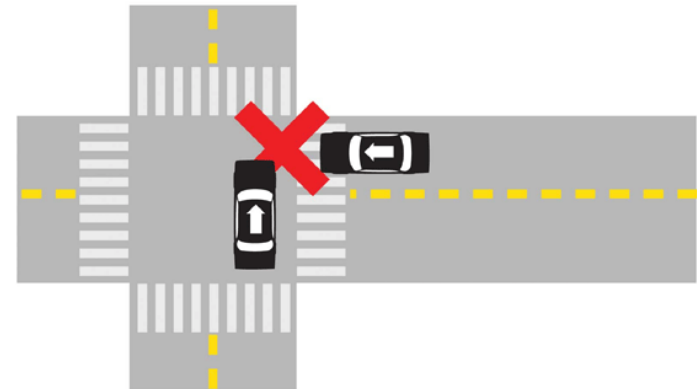
Background & Location

Staff received a request for an all-way stop at the intersection of Cameron Street and North Payne Street



Background & Location

- Total volumes (Vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians) meet 80% volume warrants for four of the eight hours.
- Three angle crashes have occurred since 2019
- There is a large and consistent presence of pedestrians, including children walking to school, using this intersection
- This is a main cycling route within the city of Alexandria
- Parking and Buildings on Payne Street obscures the view of oncoming vehicles



Outreach

Alexandria Fire Department and Public Schools have provided support for the recommendation

- The overhead flashing yellow is not for fire service and will be removed after all-way stop installation

Old Town Civic Association expressed support for the proposed improvement, no other comments were received from the other associations

Staff will notify roadway users and the community at least two (2) weeks prior to implementation of the recommendation if approved.

Recommendation

That the Board recommend the Director of T&ES install an all-way stop at the intersection of Cameron Street and Payne Street.

Curbside Pick-up and Loading Zone – 1100 block of Oronoco Street

Agenda Item 7

Presenter: Max Devilliers



Background & Location

- The American Day School located at 1108 Oronoco Street, submitted a request for a new loading zone on Oronoco Street to accommodate the students being dropped off in the mornings and picked up in the afternoons.



Background & Location

- Previously the school used the adjacent parking lot at 1122 Oronoco Street, but that property has been sold.





October 23, 2023

Dear Mr. Devilliers:

Attached please find our on-street parking modification request. Our school has capacity for 64 children of ages 16 months to 5 years old. Although we have been using the parking lot of Community Presbyterian Church next door to us since we opened in 2012, unfortunately, we are no longer authorized to use this parking lot as the Church is now for sale. On our block, we only have 3 properties: Our school, Community Presbyterian Church to the left and a gas station to the right. Across the street we have The Henry Apartments that has an underground garage for its residents.

On page 2 of the application (map), we have indicated with a black sharpie the parking spaces that we think would work great for quick drop off and pick up of the children. Three of them are immediately in front of our property and the other three are just across the street from us. We are requesting loading zone signs for our busiest drop off and pick up times: 7am-9am and 4pm to 6pm, Monday thru Friday.

Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mery Bustinza". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mery Bustinza

President

Discussion

- American Day School requested six parking spaces on the 1100 block of Oronoco Street be converted to loading
- Staff recommend that only the two parking spaces in front of the school be converted to a loading zone initially.
- If the American Day School reports that these two spaces are not enough for pickup and drop off operations after signage installation, City staff will survey the block on a weekday during morning and afternoon peak hours to determine if demand warrants additional loading spaces

Curb Space Prioritization Framework

Priority:	Residential	Main Streets	Office & Commercial	Warehouse & Industrial
1: High	City Plan Priorities			
2	Access for People	Access for People	Access for People	Access for Goods
3	Parking	Access for Goods	Access for Goods	Access for People
4	Access for Goods	Activation	Parking	Parking
5: Low	Activation	Parking	Activation	Activation

Outreach

- The petition is supported by the gas station, the florist, the pizza shop, and numerous American Day School clients.
- Staff notified the West Old Town Citizens Association and Braddock Metro Citizens' Coalition of the request. City Staff received confirmation of receipt from the West Old Town Citizens Association but had not heard any feedback back from either organization.

Recommendation

That the Board recommend the Director of T&ES install 'Loading Zone 7 to 9 a.m. 4 to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday' signage for the two parking spaces in front of 1108 Oronoco Street and provide City staff with administrative approval to install identical signage for up to four more parking spaces on the 1100 block of Oronoco Street if demand proves to warrant the additional spaces.

Curbside Pick-up and Loading Zone – 2100 block of Mount Vernon Avenue

Agenda Item 8

Presenter: Max Devilliers



Background & Location

- 7-11 store manager submitted a request for a new loading zone on Mount Vernon Avenue to accommodate deliveries that have been improperly conducted along East Custis Avenue



Background & Location

- A resident of the 100 block of East Custis Avenue raised this matter with the City because of the number of delivery trucks unloading in 'No Parking' zones along East Custis Avenue instead of on Mount Vernon Avenue due to the lack of a loading zone for 7-11 and others.



Background & Location

ON-STREET PARKING MODIFICATION REQUEST FORM



Please fill out the first page of this application and return to max.devilliers@alexandriava.gov or mail to Max Devilliers, Mobility Services, 421 King Street, Suite 235, Alexandria, VA 22314. Staff will contact the Project Champion to further refine proposed solution to address the issue that the applicant is trying to address.

Reason for the Request (What are you trying to solve/address?):

Dedicated parking space for unloading trucks, which can be used for all ~~business~~ businesses in the surrounding area.

Type of On-Street Parking Modification Requested:

- Loading Zone Removal
 Loading Zone Addition
 Parking Removal
 No Parking Sign Removal
 Parking Restriction Change (Non-RPP)
 Proposed restrictions _____

Location: At 2108 Mount Vernon Ave 22301 ^{corner of} ~~so~~ M T Vernon Ave ~~and~~ Custis Ave
 (Map or figure may be provided as an attachment)

Approximate number of spaces affected (assume 20 feet per space): 2

Project Champion (Point of Contact) Information:

Name: Poochi Patel

Address: 2108 Mount Vernon Ave Alexandria VA 22301

Email: Pati66@gmail.com

Phone Number: 703-684-1943, cell 908-251-0555

Best Way to Contact:

Email

Phone

Best Time of Day to Contact:

Morning

Afternoon

Discussion

- Many delivery trucks have been witnessed unloading on East Custis Avenue which is a largely residential street and is far narrower than Mount Vernon Avenue.
- Larger delivery vehicles cannot safely unload from the 7-11 parking lot without obstructing the sidewalks and travel lanes on Mount Vernon Avenue or East Custis Avenue.
- The City does not want to make travel conditions on East Custis Avenue unsafe by continuing to enable loading there and does not want delivery trucks obstructing any sidewalks for any amount of time.

Curb Space Prioritization Framework

Priority:	Residential	Main Streets	Office & Commercial	Warehouse & Industrial
1: High	City Plan Priorities			
2	Access for People	Access for People	Access for People	Access for Goods
3	Parking	Access for Goods	Access for Goods	Access for People
4	Access for Goods	Activation	Parking	Parking
5: Low	Activation	Parking	Activation	Activation

Outreach

- The other business near this proposed loading zone has signed the request form and is supportive of the change.
- Staff notified the Del Ray Business Association and the Del Ray Citizens Association of this request.

Recommendation

That the Board recommend the Director of T&ES install 'Active Loading and Curbside Pickup Only' signage for the two parking spaces in front of 2104 Mount Vernon Avenue.

Information Items

STAFF UPDATES

- **Parking Enforcement Contractor Update**
- **Taxicab Subcommittee Update**
- **Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update**

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

- City created temporary signage for pick-up and drop-off during the pandemic
- Staff put up the temporary signs upon request from businesses, particularly take-out restaurants
- Implemented under the City's emergency authority granted by the City Council, which expired on June 30, 2022
- Due to positive feedback, staff developed permanent signage for these zones



Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

- Staff reached out to businesses in spring 2022 and proposed 15 permanent zones per the responses received
- Many businesses either decided against the permanent signage or made requests that could not be accommodated (e.g., street where parking is prohibited altogether)
- Newly created signs were approved by the Board in June 2022 and installed in August 2022
- There are currently 23 zones throughout the city designated by this signage
 - 3 of these zones are located in laybys—one of which replaced a former traditional loading zone that was not time-delimited—so can remain as is
 - 4 of these zones bookend the 100 block of King which is now ped-only
 - As such, only 16 of the 23 zones were surveyed by staff for this project

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

- These 16 zones were surveyed May through November 2023
 - One survey per zone, lasting 90 minutes each
 - All surveys occurred between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays
 - Staff recorded the:
 - Actual length of each zone
 - Number of cars driven into each zone
 - Amount of time each driver occupied a zone
 - Qualitative observations about each car occupying a zone
 - Other miscellaneous notes about the zone and its usage
- Factors that indicated the zone was well-used during the survey:
 - More than one driver used the zone
 - Drivers used the zone for short periods (between 15 seconds and 15 minutes, on average)
 - The zone was in use for at least 15% of the time but not completely full for more than 90% of the time

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

- **Evaluation Summary:** Of the 16 zones surveyed, staff observed 8 as being well utilized while the other 8 were observed as being utilized contrary to the purpose of the zone
- These zones appear to be used as intended if located:
 - On retail-dense blocks with high traffic volumes
 - On a block with at least one primarily carryout/pickup business or school/daycare
 - On a block where longer-term parking is in high demand
 - On a block that does not already have other loading or pickup/dropoff zones
 - At the start of a block or parking lane or in another highly visible location

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

Proposed Process:

- Administrative approval for requested pickup/dropoff zones that meet criteria and have received signatures of support from all property owners and tenants directly fronted by the requested zone
 - Staff would notify T&PB of new zones via written updates
 - If the applicant's request doesn't meet the criteria and requestor still wants it, the request may go before T&PB
- Annual recertification process
 - Conducted every January; staff will review to determine if the zone is still needed and if modifications should be made
 - Original applicant must confirm applicant's business is still open and still in favor of pickup/dropoff zone
- Administrative approval for removing underutilized pickup/dropoff zones
 - Staff would notify T&PB of zones being removed via written updates

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

City Staff's Proposed Criteria for Administrative Approval to *Implement* New Pickup/Dropoff (time-delimited or not) Zone(s):

- Block on which zone is requested/proposed must:
 - Be 85% occupied by parked vehicles by any survey
 - *AND* one of the following:
 - Meet certain traffic volumes (TBD)
 - Staff to create a map of blocks that meet traffic volume criteria (e.g., King St, Patrick/Henry Sts, Mt Vernon Ave, etc.)
 - Feature at least one primarily carryout/pickup business;
 - Be occupied by a school and/or daycare;
 - Feature a major destination (e.g., Robinson Landing);

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

City Staff's Proposed Criteria for Administrative Approval to *Implement* New Pickup/Dropoff (time-delimited or not) Zone(s):

- If neither a carryout/pickup business nor school/daycare is present, the block must be occupied by multiple businesses (e.g., five or more)
- If at least one loading or pickup/dropoff zone exists on the same side of the same block, the request must go before T&PB
- Proposed zone must be at the start of the block or parking lane (on-street parking must already exist) unless proposed for a layby (e.g., 730 East Glebe Road) or in between two curbcuts (e.g., 1108 Oronoco Street)

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

City Staff's Proposed Criteria for Administrative Approval to *Remove Pickup/Dropoff Zone(s)*:

- Annual recertification survey finds that the applicant's business is no longer open or in need of the zone, *OR*;
- The zone is being reported to staff as underutilized or abused, *AND*;
- The zone's utilization data from either staff or other third-party consultant/contractor finds that drivers are using the zone for an average of more than 15 minutes by any survey.

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

Staff's Ongoing Efforts:

- Get feedback from PEOs on pickup/dropoff zone enforcement, locations, and effectiveness
- Survey applicants and other businesses on what would work best for them (i.e., signage changes, enforcement, zone length and location)

Future Ideas:

- Work with navigation technology and ridehailing companies to prioritize these zones using geofencing
- Meter loading and pickup/dropoff zones after 15 minutes?
- Public-facing loading zone location (and availability?) map

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

Next Steps:

- Aggregate all Board feedback and address accordingly
- Staff to formalize the administrative approval process for:
 - installing new pickup/dropoff zones
 - removing existing pickup/dropoff zones
- Board reviews and approves process at January meeting

Pickup/Dropoff Zone Update

Feedback?