Bicycle Advisory Committee and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

BAC-PAC Joint Meeting, Virtual using Microsoft TEAMS, Monday, June 5, 2023 7PM

DRAFT Minutes

Meeting [Recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBTODZ7AUxQ); Food Study [Slides](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/food-study/food-study_pac_june-5-2023.pdf) VDOT [slides](https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/NorthernVirginia/Presentation_-_Arlington_BAC_PAC_-_Route_1_Multimodal_Study_June_2023_acc06162023_PM.pdf) (New slides: 19 (Barnes), 23 (County VZ Toolbox)

Attendees:

* **PAC Members/Staff:** Elizabeth Gallagher, Chair; Eric Goodman, Vice Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Recording Secretary; Jim Feaster; Eric Goldstein; Eric Malpeli; David Patton, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner; Mary Dallao, Program Director for Active Transportation/Acting WalkArlington Program Manager; Elwyn Gonzales, Transportation Planner
* **BAC Members/Staff:** Cynthia Palmer, Chair; Steve Offutt, Vice Chair; Dana Bres; Eric Goodman; Noreen Hannigan; Megan Jones; Aaron Schuetz; Leah Gerber, Active Transportation Manager; Raymond Duran, BikeArlington/CaBIiProgram Manager; Majdi Shomali, C2E2 BAC Liaison
* **Invited Speakers:** Brett Wallace, CPHD; VDOT/Kimley-Horn: Dan Reinhard, Anthony Gallo, Geoff Giffin, John Martin, Lucas Muller; **Other County staff:** Allison Bullock, Brian Shelton; **22202 Community:** Gus Ardura, Eric Cassel, Cory & Nick Giacobbe, Paul Pisano; Jeffrey Williams, Matt Jones, National Landing BID; **Other attendees:** Collier Cook, Leslie Tiersten, Kevin O’Brien, WABA

The BAC Chair called the joint meeting to order at 7:03 PM and welcomed BAC-PAC members, staff, invited speakers, and guests. There were no public speakers or Chairs’ reports.

**Brett Wallace, Senior Urban Designer, CPHD:** [**Future of Outdoor Dining (FOOD) Study**](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Building/FOOD-Study)

The speaker described the background to the FOOD project, including the current, but soon to sunset TOSAs, and updates to the FOOD study, the proposed future way of offering outdoor dining that will offer additional, outdoor seating for restaurants while maintaining at least 6’ minimum clear zone sidewalks and landscaping zones. Proposed permitting for “permanent” outdoor dining sites allows streamlined approval processes for either by right (on private property) or special exception (on public right of way). Enacting the new program requires amendments to zoning ordinance, County code, and updating the County outdoor cafe guidelines, which includes guidance for minimum clear zone widths, pedestrian safety, accessibility, and ADA compliance for outdoor cafes in the public space. The speaker provided a link to the [proposed zoning ordinance amendments](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/commissions/documents/zoco/zoco-memo-future-of-outdoor-dining-food-study-06.06.2023-5.pdf) that would be discussed by ZOCO tomorrow.

* *Comments:* When sector and other plans increase minimum clear zones, can sites maintain the 6’ minimum or must they modify layout to match new guidance? (Annual review would review this.) Is the 6’ clear zone part of the existing sidewalk or can it be in the street/gutter (sidewalk only). How will ADA clear-zone compliance be enforced? What is the penalty? For outdoor cafe licensees, how frequently will Arlington County conduct inspections of site visits to confirm compliance with the requirements? Signage to report problems? For an annual review of the TOSAs, will commissions and committees be invited to send reps to the review?

**Dan Reinhard,** [**VDOT Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Feasibility Study**](https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/route_1_multimodal_improvements_study.asp) **Project Manager: Route 1 Project Update and Q&A**

The speaker and his team reviewed the current status of the Route 1 project. The presentation was similar to the [PIM 4](https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/resources/NorthernVirginia/Presentation_-_Route_1_Multimodal_Study_Phase_2_PIM_4_May_2023_acc05152023_PM.pdf) presentation on May 15, except for new slides showing Barnes Dance examples and County Vision Zero tools.

*Comments:* BAC-PAC members focused their comments on the 18th Street at-grade intersection and the TDM plans.

* **18th Street at-Grade (with Barnes Dance):** Members expressed concerns about signal timing and possible long waits. The speaker noted the challenges with the Barnes Dance and coordinated signalization; combining Barmes Dance with the NACTO guidelines for protected intersections, explained the need for ADA-compliant “beg buttons'' (signals set for autorecall, but vision-impaired could press button for a few seconds, which would activate the audio description of the crossing). The speaker asked the BAC-PAC about mixing bike-peds; D. Bres and P. Van Hine thought mixing would be fine. Local members expressed need for a grade-separated passage if the Barnes Dance fails.
* **TDM:** Members questioned the focus on movements at 15th Street specifically. The speaker responded that their primary purpose is to keep I-395 traffic from backing up because of the probable future backup of PM traffic at an at-grade 15th Street Intersection (recording at 1h 51 min.). VDOT believes that many of the drivers currently exiting to the west or entering from the west can be switched to non-SOV commuting, given the rich transit options in the National Landing area. Members also requested the actual data, not just percentages, as well as asked for a broader TDM purpose that would include total vpd and its impact on safety and pollution.

**BAC-PAC Business:**

* **BAC-PAC Action:**  *Moved, seconded, and approved without dissent:* Prepare a letter to the County Manager sharing the BAC-PAC concerns about the minimum pedestrian clear zone, accessibility, and compliance with the proposed FOOD study program.
  + BAC-PAC members agreed that E Goldstein should draft the letter. (After the meeting, the BAC Chair decided not to join the BAC letter officially. The final, approved PAC [letter](https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/food-study/2023-06-12-pac-reponse-to-the-food-study.pdf) is posted on the [FOOD website](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Building/FOOD-Study))
* **BAC-PAC Action:** Moved, seconded, and approved without dissent: Prepare a joint letter to the County Manager to share the BAC-PAC concerns about the VDOT Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Feasibility Improvements study, Phase 2, PIM 4.
  + D. Bres and P. Van Hine agreed to draft the letter, subject to approval by current BAC and PAC members. ([the final letter](https://10988493703797958236.googlegroups.com/attach/3869e7cb92291/2023%2006%2013%20BAC-PAC%20ltr%20to%20CM%20RE%20VDOT%20Route%201%20Phase%202%20PIM%204%20-%20FINAL.pdf?part=0.1&view=1&vt=ANaJVrGLTdZbn3l2EZ3waVG_9-QVaHsrXdaYjdxRyQZYqfaVuzTkaTi1vGgNnLFt_tYis0CZzBhwAjlAu5OaxSET9qSIKOEcNg9bbrA4QSGhN0d5-xU1VM4) is posted in the BAC and PAC Google Groups)

**Announcements:**

* K O’Brien posted in the chat an announcement of the [2023 Washington Region Vision Zero Summit](https://waba.org/2023summit/) on Community Engagement and Safe Streets, June 14, 2023. (meeting recordings are available through the meeting link)
* P Van Hine reminded attendees about the County CPHD virtual meeting on Site Plan Conditions Educational Primer on June 12 (meeting recording is [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxKsZ1geTEg)).
* L Gerber announced that this was her last BAC meeting and that she was leaving the County in two weeks. Elwyn Gonzales will take over her BAC-PAC coordinating roles.
* D. Bres encouraged everyone to check out the almost completed protected intersections at 15th & S. Eads and send in comments, as these new intersections will probably be reproduced elsewhere in the County.

The Chairs adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM. The next BAC meeting will be Monday, July 3; the next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, July 12. Watch the [BAC](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Bicycle-Advisory-Committee) and [PAC](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Commissions-and-Advisory-Groups/Pedestrian-Advisory-Committee) pages for logon, draft agendas, and other important information.