

6.0 Agency Coordination and Public Involvement

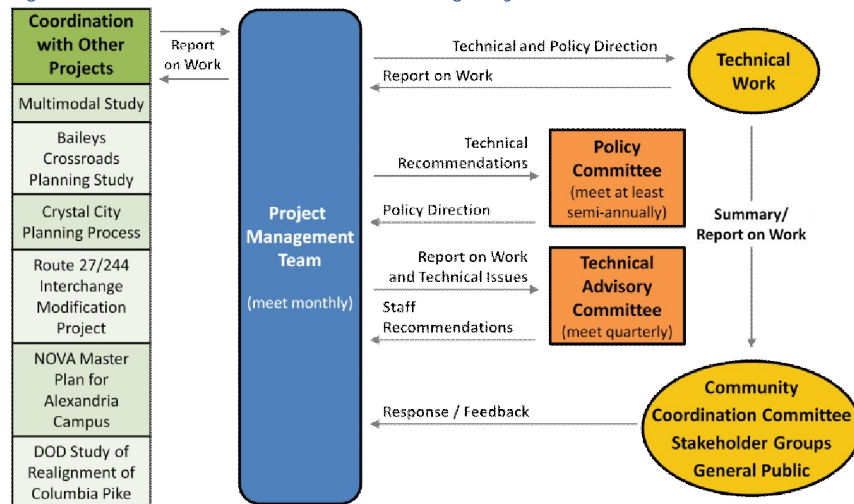
Coordination with federal, state, and local agencies as well as with key stakeholders and the public has been integral to the project planning and development process and has been a key component of the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative AA/EA.

This chapter describes coordination with projects happening concurrently in the Columbia Pike corridor; coordination with agencies at all levels; and past, present, and future public involvement activities for local citizens and stakeholder groups. Volume II, Chapters 16 and 17 provides the agency correspondence and examples of the types of outreach materials provided, respectively.

Public participation for the project was designed to be proactive and in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA).

Figure 6.0-1 shows the relationship between the Project Management Team (PMT), stakeholder groups, the public, and committees in the context of coordination with other projects.

Figure 6.0-1: Public Involvement and Agency Coordination



6.1 Coordination with Other Projects

Several projects are ongoing in the Columbia Pike corridor. Coordination with the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative has ensured that the projects progress in a complementary fashion. Projects happening concurrently with the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative have included:

- **Columbia Pike Multimodal Street Improvements Project:** Representatives from this project have been included as part of the Project Management Team (PMT) and attended relevant public and committee meetings. Representatives from the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative have likewise attended regular meetings of the Multimodal Project.
- **Baileys Crossroads Planning Study:** Staff representatives from Fairfax County conversant on the Baileys Crossroads Planning Study have participated in Pike Transit Initiative team meetings to inform the PMT about the progress of the Baileys Crossroads study. As with the Multimodal Project, Pike Transit Initiative representatives have attended public meetings conducted by the Baileys Crossroads Planning Study.
- **Crystal City Planning Process:** Agency staff from Arlington County and the PMT are coordinating and sharing information about the Crystal City redevelopment and vision and the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative project.
- **Route 27/244 Interchange Modification Project:** The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has awarded a design-build contract for the replacement of the 70-year-old bridge and interchange of Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard. As the design will impact possible Columbia Pike cross-sections in areas adjacent to the interchange, representatives from both projects are meeting periodically to discuss relevant issues. The bridge replacement is expected to begin in 2011 and be complete by 2015.
- **NOVA Master Plan for Alexandria Campus:** The PMT coordinated with officials from the Alexandria campus of the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and City of Alexandria representatives about the feasibility of locating station stops and a vehicle storage and maintenance facility on campus.
- **Department of Defense Study of Realignment of Columbia Pike:** The Department of Defense, Arlington National Cemetery, and Arlington County are negotiating a land swap to expand the cemetery property and provide land (part of the Navy Annex site) to Arlington County for a future museum. The PMT is closely monitoring this issue as a cemetery expansion could result in a realignment of Columbia Pike near its intersection with Joy Street.

6.2 Agency Coordination and Project Management Structure

Four policy, advisory, and coordinating committees with different perspectives have provided structure and guidance in facilitating public and agency coordination during the planning process. The PMT, Policy Committee, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and Community Coordination Committee (CCC) are described in the following sections.

6.2.1 Project Management Team

The PMT has been responsible for providing direction on project work activities and study materials. Members include representatives from Arlington County, Fairfax County, WMATA, FTA, the consultant team, and the Columbia Pike Multimodal Project. In addition, representatives of the City of Alexandria were invited to participate in project management meetings. The PMT meets monthly.

Outside of the monthly PMT meetings, the team has met various times with FTA to discuss the development of the AA/EA, the development of the TSM Alternatives, travel demand forecasting, and to provide tours of the study corridor. Table 6.2-1 lists the meetings held with FTA for the current study.

Table 6.2-1: FTA Meetings for Current Study

Meeting Date	Topic
August 25, 2009	FTA - Project Re-Introduction
September 9, 2009	FTA - Tour of Study Corridor
March 10, 2010	FTA - Small Starts Initiation
June 21, 2010	FTA - Travel Demand Forecasting
October 4, 2010	FTA - Travel Demand Forecasting
December 20, 2010	FTA - Travel Demand Forecasting
February 8, 2011	FTA & VDHR Tour of Study Corridor
May 5, 2011	FTA - AA/EA Status Update
September 20, 2011	FTA - Multimodal Project Elements
October 24, 2011	FTA - Draft AA/EA Walk-Through

6.2.2 Policy Committee

The Policy Committee has met as often as project activities required. Table 6.2-2 lists the meetings of the Policy Committee. The committee's role has been to advise the PMT and provide policy direction. The co-chairs were from the Arlington County Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Mason District. Other members have included:

- Chairs of the Arlington County Board and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
- Arlington County Manager
- Arlington County Transportation Division Director
- Fairfax County Department of Transportation Director
- Virginia Department of Transportation, Northern Virginia District Administrator
- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Director
- Commonwealth Transportation Board, Northern Virginia District member
- Virginia State Senate (31st District) member
- Virginia House of Delegates (49th District) member

Table 6.2-2: Policy Committee Meetings

Meeting Date/Time	Location	Attendance
November 4, 2009, 2-4 PM	Mason District Governmental Center, Conference Room	PC Members: 10 Marsha Allgeier (Arlington County) Dennis Leach (Arlington County) Christopher Zimmerman (Co-Chair, Arlington County) Douglas Kolemey (CTB) Corey Hill (DRPT) Kathy Ichter (Fairfax County) Penny Gross (Co-Chair, Fairfax County) Sharon Bulova (Fairfax County) Morteza Salehi (VDOT) Mary Margaret Whipple (VA State Senate) PMT/Other Attendees: 13
May 5, 2010, 1-3 PM	Arlington County Government Center, Conference Rooms C & D	PC Members: 9 Christopher Zimmerman (Co-Chair, Arlington County) Jay Fiset (Arlington County) Marsha Allgeier (Arlington County) Dennis Leach (Arlington County) Douglas Kolemey (CTB) Corey Hill (DRPT) Penny Gross (Co-Chair, Fairfax County) Kathy Ichter (Fairfax County) Robert McDonald (VDOT) PMT/Other Attendees: 18
October 29, 2010, 2-4 PM	Mason District Governmental Center, Conference Room	PC Members: 12 Christopher Zimmerman (Co-Chair, Arlington County) Jay Fiset (Arlington County) Tamara Galliani (for Marsha Allgeier, Arlington County) Wayne Wentz (for Dennis Leach, Arlington County) Douglas Kolemey (CTB) Corey Hill (DRPT) Penny Gross (Co-Chair, Fairfax County) Sharon Bulova (Fairfax County) Kathy Ichter (Fairfax County) Adam Ebbin (VA House of Delegates) Mary Margaret Whipple (VA State Senate) Valerie Pardo (VDOT) PMT/Other Attendees: 14

Meeting Date/Time	Location	Attendance
December 2, 2011, 2-4 PM	Arlington County Government Center, Room 311	PC Members: 9 Christopher Zimmerman (Co-Chair, Arlington County) Penny Gross (Co-Chair, Fairfax County) Sharon Bulova (Fairfax County) Jay Fiset (Arlington County) Marsha Allgeier (Arlington County) David Awbrey (DRPT) Tom Biesiadny (Fairfax County) Douglas Kolemey (CTB) Dennis Leach (Arlington County) PMT/Other Attendees: 25
February 29, 2012, 3-5 PM	Mason District Government Center, Main Conference Room	PC Members: 8 Penny Gross (Co-Chair, Fairfax County) Jay Fiset (Arlington County) Marsha Allgeier (Arlington County) David Awbrey (DRPT) Tom Biesiadny (Fairfax County) Douglas Kolemey (CTB) Dennis Leach (Arlington County) Garrett Moore (VDOT)

6.2.3 Technical Advisory Committee

The TAC has been composed of representatives from federal, state, and local government agencies. Meeting periodically, their role has been to provide staff recommendations and advice on technical matters related to the project. Table 6.2-3 lists the meeting dates of the TAC. Members of the TAC have included representatives from:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Department of Defense
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Transit Administration
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- National Capital Planning Commission
- National Park Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Transportation Security Administration
- Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Virginia State Historic Preservation Office
- Arlington County
- Arlington County Police Department
- Arlington Economic Development
- Arlington Public Schools
- City of Alexandria
- Dominion Virginia Power
- Fairfax County
- Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning
- Fairfax County Department of Public Works
- Fairfax County Economic Development Authority
- Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
- Fairfax County Park Authority
- Fairfax County Police Department
- Fairfax County Public Schools
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- Northern Virginia Community College
- Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority

- Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
- Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
- VIKA, Inc.
- Vornado Realty Trust
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- Kimley-Horn and Associates

- 14 Fairfax County civic associations
- 6 Fairfax County commercial property owners
- 3 Fairfax County office and retail tenants
- Several individual members of the public

Table 6.2-3: Technical Advisory Committee Meetings

Meeting Date/Time	Location	Attendance
December 1, 2009, 2-4 PM	WMATA Headquarters, Conference Room, Ground Floor	TAC: 18 PMT: 16
June 15, 2010	Newsletter emailed to all TAC members to update them on study progress, in lieu of a TAC meeting	All TAC members
September 14, 2010, 2-4 PM	Mason District Governmental Center, Conference Rooms	TAC: 25 PMT: 16
December 7, 2011, 2-4 PM	Goodwin House, Bailey's Crossroads, Auditorium	TAC: 15 PMT: 13 Other: 4

6.2.4 Community Coordination Committee

The CCC has been composed of citizens, commercial and business interests along the corridor, and representatives of official advisory groups. The project team has engaged and coordinated with the CCC regarding project activities, particularly at key milestones. CCC members have been encouraged to provide feedback to the PMT and communicate what they have learned about the project to their respective groups. Table 6.2-4 lists the meeting dates of the CCC.

Members of the CCC have included representatives from:

- Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO)
- WMATA Riders Advisory Council
- Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition
- Arlington County Planning Commission, Transportation Commission, and Transit Advisory Committee
- 14 Arlington County civic associations
- 7 Arlington County commercial property owners
- 4 Arlington County office and retail tenants
- Bailey's Crossroads Revitalization Corporation (BCRC)
- Fairfax County Planning Commission and Transportation Advisory Commission

Table 6.2-4: Community Coordination Committee Meetings

Meeting Date/Time	Location	Attendance
March 10, 2010, 7-9 PM	Walter Reed Community Center & Senior Center, Rooms B & C	CCC and community members: 25 PMT and Elected Officials: 13
October 7, 2010, 7-9 PM	Goodwin House, Bailey's Crossroads Auditorium	CCC and community members: 29 PMT and Elected Officials: 15
December 5, 2011, 7-9 PM	Patrick Henry Elementary School Cafeteria	CCC and community members: 27 PMT and Elected Officials: 12

6.3 Public Involvement

In addition to soliciting the input of agency representatives with a technical background and familiarity with transportation projects, the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative team has also sought valuable feedback from members of the public and organizations that have an interest in the project. To that end, the team has provided a number of ways for the public and stakeholders to participate and have their voices heard in the planning process.

6.3.1 Public Meetings

Two public meetings were held for the AA/EA portion of the Columbia Pike Transit Initiative project. The first was held on Monday, November 15, 2010, from 7 pm to 9 pm at Goodwin House in Baileys Crossroads, Fairfax County. 112 members of the public attended the meeting. The second was held on Thursday, November 18, 2010, from 7 pm to 9 pm at Walter Reed Community Center in Arlington. 145 members of the public attended the second meeting. Several elected officials and reporters from local TV and print media were in attendance as well. Table 6.3-1 lists the public meeting dates and provides an attendance summary.

Extensive outreach was conducted to inform the public about the meetings. Outreach included a "walkabout" of the corridor. During the walkabout, 800 flyers printed in English and Spanish were distributed at area establishments. In addition, flyers announcing the meeting details were posted at bus shelters within the study area and distributed to transit riders at the bus bays serving

the Pentagon City and Pentagon Metrorail stations during peak hours. Other outreach included:

- Posting public meeting announcements on the project website.
- Entering public meeting announcements on 19 list serves, reaching over 3,600 people.
- Mailing meeting announcements to approximately 800 people on mailing list.
- Emailing announcements of meetings to an email list of approximately 700 people, as well as approximately 60 media outlets.
- Disseminating announcements of meetings to Public Affairs Officers of Arlington County, Fairfax County, and City of Alexandria (through the PMT). All jurisdictions listed the project public meetings on their websites.
- Telephone calls to encourage attendance for CCC members and historically underrepresented populations.
- Provision of a large laminated flyer (English/Spanish) to CPRO to post in their store-front window on Columbia Pike to further advertise the public meetings.
- CPRO and many citizen associations further disseminated the project's public meeting announcements to their constituencies.

The purpose of the meetings was to provide the public with an update on the progress of the project and to solicit input on the alignment, station locations, operations and maintenance facilities, existing conditions, and potential project effects. The format of each meeting was the same; they consisted of a presentation followed by a short question-and-answer session and break-out sessions in which members of the public discussed specific elements of the project with members of the PMT. Display boards, maps, and other visual materials were provided for participants.

A full transcription of verbal and written comments from the meetings, e-mailed comments, letters, and the presentation and display boards can be found in the document *Columbia Pike Transit Initiative, Draft Public Meeting Summary, November 2010*. All comments received as part of the AA/EA have been filed in an official record and each has been considered by the project team in developing, refining, and evaluating the alternatives.

Table 6.3-1: Public Meeting Attendance Summary

Meeting Date/Time	Location	Attendance
November 15, 2010, 7-9 PM	Goodwin House, Bailey's Crossroads Auditorium	112 citizens PMT: 15
November 18, 2010, 7-9 PM	Walter Reed Community Center, Multipurpose Room	145 citizens PMT: 15

6.3.2 Community and Stakeholder Meetings

In addition to holding public meetings, the project team has held numerous meetings and briefings with stakeholders and community groups to discuss specific project issues or make presentations. The project team has also conducted outreach activities for English as a Second Language (ESL) groups. Table 6.3-2 lists the community and stakeholder meetings held for the current study.

Outreach to Historically Underrepresented Populations

Given the high concentration of Spanish-speakers in the corridor, project information provided to the public has been in both Spanish and English. This includes a Spanish-language version of the project website and Spanish-language versions of public meeting announcements. A Spanish-language translator has also been available at public meetings. In addition, the walkabout described in Section 6.3.1 focused on reaching members of the public who may not have seen announcements from other sources. Members of the project team also provided a presentation on the project in Spanish at the December 2010 Arlington Latino Roundtable.

6.3.3 Project Website

A website, <http://www.piketransit.com>, was created to keep interested parties up-to-date on the progress of the project. It includes an overview of the study, current status, a fact sheet and frequently-asked questions page, publications, a glossary, maps, images from the project, links, contact information, suggestions on ways the public can get involved with the project, and Spanish translations. The website also provides a means for visitors to submit their comments via e-mail to the project team. A sample view of the website is shown in Figure 6.3-1.

Figure 6.3-1: Columbia Pike Transit Initiative Website



Table 6.3-2: Community and Stakeholder Meetings

Community Group/Stakeholder	Meeting Date(s)
Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA)	2/24/2010; 6/24/2010; 8/19/2010; 1/20/2011; 4/8/2011; 8/15/2011
Skyline Complex (Vornado)	4/7/2010; 11/21/2011; 11/21/2011
Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition	4/22/2010; 2/27/2012
City of Alexandria	7/14/2010; 9/30/2010; 2/24/2012
Coca Cola	8/4/2010
VDOT - Northern Virginia District	8/5/2010
Skyline House	10/6/2010; 2/16/2012
Skyline Plaza	10/6/2010; 2/15/2012
Target	10/7/2010; 9/28/2011
Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR)	11/9/2010; 10/11/2011
Vornado & Lerner Property Owners in Pentagon City	11/15/2010; 12/20/2010; 1/27/2011; 4/5/2011; 5/25/2011
Larchmont Apartment Owners	11/17/2010; 10/4/2011
Latino Roundtable	12/15/2011
Arlington Heights Civic Association	1/11/2011
Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Study	1/24/2011
Public Storage/Commonwealth Consultants	2/17/2011
Alcova Heights Civic Association	3/24/2011; 2/16/2012
BRAC Joint Task Force	4/5/2011
Arlington County Disability Advisory Commission	4/19/11
Arlington County SuperStops program	4/26/2011
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	4/28/2011
Arlington County Transit Advisory Committee	5/10/2011; 9/13/2011; 12/13/2011
Multimodal Project	Meetings monthly and on specific topics as needed
Rosenthal Redevelopment	6/21/2011
Verizon	7/2011
Property Owner at Jefferson Street Transit Center	9/28/2011
Arlington County Development Review on 12 th St.	9/29/2011
Washington Boulevard Interchange Project	11/2/2011
Arlington County Planning on Navy Annex Parcel	11/2011; 1/2012
Arlington County Transportation Commission	1/5/2012
Arlington County (Four Mile Run Bridge)	11/2011
Aurora Highlands Civic Association	2/8/2012
Bailey's Crossroads Revitalization Corporation	2/21/2012
Penrose Neighborhood Association	2/21/2012
Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads	2/23/2012
English as a Second Language (ESL) Briefing	3/19/2012

6.3.4 Project Mailing List

A database of names and addresses was compiled and has been maintained during the project. The list has been used to mail letters and send-email broadcasts to approximately 560 recipients about public meetings and other project-related events. Separate databases also have been maintained for the PMT, TAC, CCC, and PC to keep members apprised of meetings and the progress of the project. In addition, a list of media contacts has been maintained. To promote the public meetings and a general awareness of the project among the public, the project team sent press releases to media outlets and encouraged coverage of events in local TV, radio, print, and on-line formats.

6.3.5 Future Public Involvement Activities

The project team will conduct one round of meetings (one each in Arlington County and Fairfax County) to solicit comments on the AA/EA, which will be available at the meetings, and 15 days prior to the meetings, at public libraries, Arlington County and Fairfax County government offices, and on the project website. Local newspapers will announce the availability and location of the document. The project team will also send a Notice of Availability to all affected local, state, and federal agencies. The public will have 30 days from the Notice of Availability to submit written comments.

The project team will notify stakeholders and the public about the meetings through a mailing, e-mail alerts, updates provided to community list serves and blogs, print media advertisements, and the project website. Agency representatives, committee members, community leaders, and other organizations are encouraged to support the notification effort by promoting the meetings and comment opportunities to their constituencies.

It is anticipated that the format of the two meetings will be similar to previous public meetings, offering the public an opportunity to review exhibits, listen to a presentation of the results of the AA/EA, speak to and ask questions of project team members, and provide written comments on the AA/EA.

After the public meetings and the close of the comment period, the Arlington County Board and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will select a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Thereafter, FTA will review the findings of the AA/EA and responses to comments. FTA will make its formal NEPA determination and public comments will be formally addressed in the NEPA finding.