

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023, 7 P.M.
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING**

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: T&ES – Adriana Castañeda, Director; Katye North, Division Chief; Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief; Sheila McGraw, Principal Planner; Alex Carroll, Principal Planner; Dan Scolese, Civil Engineer IV; and Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II.

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.
2. Approval of the September 18, 2023, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Introduction to new T&ES Director, Adriana Castañeda
4. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on:
 - Interim Pickup and Dropoff Measures at the Basilica School of Saint Mary
 - Parking Enforcement Contractor
 - Ms. Tucker asked when the contractor would begin to which Ms. North responded that a date had not yet been confirmed.
 - Potomac Yard Metro Station Capital Bikeshare Station and Bike Racks

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:

Carolyn Griglione spoke to inform the Board that the crosswalk and median at West Braddock Road and North Hampton Drive have successfully been modified but that one of the duplicate crosswalks at West Braddock Road and North Beauregard Street must be removed. Mr. Scolese responded that the duplicate crosswalks are not an immediate safety concern for the City so other projects must be prioritized. The crosswalk and associated infrastructure modifications can be made as part of the West End Transitway project. Ms. North stated that requests like these should be submitted via 311 for improved tracking and prioritization. Chair Lewis asked that staff provide Ms. Griglione and the Board with an update as this project progresses.

Ellen Mosher spoke about the Basilica School of Saint Mary’s parking and pickup/drop-off issues and asked that the City conduct parking and traffic volume surveys generated by the

school. Ms. McGraw stated that staff met with the School's leadership and land use attorneys which stated that a subcommittee is now in place to address the issues raised by nearby residents and that many of the issues raised are temporary as a result of the ongoing construction at the school expected to be complete in November. Chair Lewis asked if staff considered private schools as part of the Safe Routes to School program to which Ms. Carroll responded that the program is focused primarily on public schools given that more public-school students tend to walk and bike to school, but private schools are considered. Ms. Tucker asked if the subcommittee involves any nearby residents, to which Ms. McGraw responded that it does not. Ms. Tucker asked that the school involve nearby residents in any decision-making regarding these issues.

BOARD ACTION: None.

CONSENT ITEMS

6. **ISSUE:** Disability Parking – 1199 North Fairfax Street

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: None.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve designating one disability parking space at 1199 North Fairfax Street and provide City staff with administrative discretion to add a second disability parking space as deemed necessary. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **ISSUE:** Curbside Pickup and Loading Zones – 700 Block of East Glebe Road

DISCUSSION: None.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: None.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve installing 'Active Loading and Curbside Pickup Only' signage for the one parking space in front of 730 East Glebe Road. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

8. **ISSUE:** Changes to Traffic – East Abingdon Drive Bicycle Lanes

DISCUSSION: Mr. Ziemann presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane noted that the condition of the railroad tracks where the Mount Vernon Trail intersects poses a risk to cyclists and requested that the City reach out to Norfolk Southern and the National Park Service to improve the conditions of the rails in the section. Mr. Kane also asked how cyclists will be able to access Slaters Lane from the proposed bicycle lanes to which Mr. Ziemann responded that that will be considered as part of the second phase of this

project. Mr. Kane also noted that the induction loops at the intersection of East Abingdon Drive and Slaters Lane do not seem to detect cyclists well, to which Mr. Ziemann responded that there are detection loops on East Abingdon Drive so cyclists would need to position themselves on Slaters Lane to have the traffic signal change for them, but City staff will evaluate other options in the future. Ms. Mihalik asked what infrastructure will be used to protect the bicycle lanes, to which Mr. Ziemann responded that ZICLA bike lane dividers, flex posts, or both will be used. Ms. Mihalik asked if this change will negatively affect the existing bus routes, to which Mr. Ziemann responded that only the 11Y and 34 bus routes run along East Abingdon Drive, both of which run on 30-minute headways during peak hours so there is little risk of conflict. Chair Lewis asked if WMATA and DASH approved of this proposed change, to which Mr. Ziemann said that they have approved. Chair Lewis noted that making East Abingdon Drive narrower where possible would be ideal in combination with the trimming of vegetation. Ms. Tucker asked City staff if traffic counts had been conducted for this proposed change, to which Mr. Ziemann responded that traffic volumes are highest during the 2-hour morning peak for which City staff ran a traffic model for a scenario in which East Abingdon Drive is two travel lanes and another in which it is one travel lane. The comparison found that the removal of one travel lane would only result in seconds-long increases to drivers' commutes.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Ann Shack testified in opposition due to drivers pulling out of parking spaces posing risks to cyclists and high traffic volumes during peak hours resulting in congestion as a result of making East Abingdon Drive narrower and more complex.

Victoria Kelley testified in opposition due to the possible impacts on vehicular congestion and requested that a traffic signal or stop sign be installed for cyclists entering the roadway from the Mount Vernon Trail. Ms. Tucker asked City staff if traffic counts had been conducted for this proposed change, to which Mr. Ziemann responded that traffic volumes are highest during the 2-hour morning peak for which City staff ran a traffic model for a scenario in which East Abingdon Drive is two travel lanes and another in which it is one travel lane. The comparison found that the removal of one travel lane would only result in seconds-long increases to drivers' commutes.

Kevin O'Brien testified in support of the proposed change citing cyclist safety and comfort.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mihalik to approve (1) removing one HOV lane on East Abingdon Drive between Bashford Lane and north of Slaters Lane; and (2) converting the right lane of East Abingdon Drive south of Bashford Lane from through-right to right-turn-only. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **ISSUE:** Left-Turn Lane Removal and Installation of No Turn on Red Signs – Duke Street at Dulany Street

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carroll presented the item to the Board. Mr. Osborne asked if the turn lane should simply be converted into a travel lane given that Duke Street westbound is currently three travel lanes, to which Mr. Scolese responded that Duke Street in Motion will likely result in the third travel lane west of Dulany being converted into a bus-only lane in the near future. Mr. Osborne asked if City staff plan to install an automated red-light camera at this intersection, to which Ms. Carroll responded that it could be considered but the City is limited by the state to installing automated red-light cameras at 15 intersections so average driver behavior will need to be evaluated prior to installation. Ms. Mihalik suggested adjusting traffic signal timing at this intersection so that a pedestrian refuge in the center of Duke Street is not necessary, to which Ms. Carroll responded that City staff will consider the feasibility of doing so.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Morgan Babcock testified in opposition noting that the Carlyle Council needs more than one month to evaluate the impacts of such a change on the travel patterns in and around Carlyle. Ms. Babcock requested that the City provide Carlyle Council with additional data such as the number of crashes at this intersection, the number of pedestrians passing through this intersection, and the increase in traffic volumes as a result of the future development along Eisenhower Avenue. Mr. Kane asked what the hours of operation for the tunnel underneath Duke Street are, to which Ms. Babcock responded that the tunnel is open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays. Mr. Kane when Carlyle Council was notified of this proposed change, to which Ms. Carroll responded on September 27th, 2023, Ms. Carroll added that more pedestrians cross Dulany Street along Duke Street than there are drivers turning left onto Dulany Street from Duke Street. Mr. Osborne asked when the third lane on Duke Street west of Dulany Street would be converted into a bus lane if all goes according to plan, to which Mr. Scolese responded it would be converted in two years. Ms. Tucker and Mr. Osborne asked what the impact of deferring this item would be, to which Ms. Carroll responded that Duke Street is in the process of being repaved so the striping will be soon, however, they could wait on the striping if needed.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to approve removing one westbound left turn lane at the intersection of Duke Street and Dulany Street. The motion passed 5-2, with Mr. Lewis and Ms. Tucker opposing the motion.

10. **ISSUE:** Parking Meter Removal and Residential Permit Parking Restrictions – 900 Block of North Fairfax Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked if permitholders are currently exempt from the parking restrictions and/or meter requirement on the 900 block of North Fairfax Street, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that they are not. Ms. Tucker asked if there is anywhere else in the city where permitholders are exempt from non-residential metered parking and if such a change would be feasible, to which Ms. North responded that there is not and the block would need to be converted to Residential Pay by Phone for that to be feasible. Mr. Kane asked what the hours of parking restrictions and the meter requirement are, to which Ms. North responded that restrictions are in place from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Chair Lewis asked if there is an update on when MetroStage would open, to which Ms.

North responded that there is no update yet. Chair Lewis asked if there is a method for ensuring that the parking signage is re-installed prior to condominium sales at future developments going live, to which Ms. North responded that there is not one in place but City staff could do things differently moving forward to ensure this issue not repeat itself. Mr. Kane asked what the cost of a Residential Parking Permit is, to which Ms. North responded that it is \$40 annually for the first car, \$50 for the second, and \$150 for every subsequent vehicle. Mr. Osborne asked if drivers can park in the nearby off-street facilities, but the garage across from the Venue is used for the residents of 800 North.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Doug Domenech testified in opposition claiming that the onsite parking spaces at The Venue are fully occupied and cost \$45,000 each to buy. Mr. Domenech also stated that he is not requesting that the meters be removed but rather that District 9 permitholders be exempt from the parking restrictions and meter requirement.

Meg Smith also testified in opposition. Mr. Osborne asked if the multi-space meters on the 900 block of North Fairfax Street have already been upgraded, to which Ms. Smith responded that they have.

Carol James voiced concerns of District 12/12A permits having been rescinded. Chair Lewis asked for a staff update on that, to which Ms. North responded that the Finance Department shares a list of car registrations with the Parking Enforcement team to check license plates in Districts 12 and 12A.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to approve maintaining the meter parking restrictions on the 900 block of North Fairfax Street as is. The motion passed, with Mr. Osborne and Ms. Bonnard opposing the motion.

11. **ISSUE:** City Code Amendment – Residential Parking Permit (RPP) Restrictions for In-Home Childcare Providers

DISCUSSION: Ms. McGraw presented the item to the Board. Chair Lewis stated that he would prefer to see the updated ordinance written as “healthcare services and/or childcare services.” Chair Lewis also asked about options for traveling nurses which would result in a variety of cars throughout the year, to which Ms. McGraw responded that staff would consider how to address that if possible. Ms. Mihalik asked why the permit fee for these is increasing and if existing permitholders had been notified of the changes, to which Ms. McGraw responded that the fee increased to match the cost of a residential parking permit for a third vehicle and that existing permitholders would be notified.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Carol James asked how this would work for Districts 12/12A given the lack of residential parking permits for Districts 12 and 12/A. Chair Lewis asked how these permits would be enforced there, to which Ms. North responded that Districts 12 and 12A residents are issued a hangtag to use for their guests and staff would discuss with the Finance Department if there is another option for this district.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Tucker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborne to recommend the City Council amend Section 5-8-77 of the City Code to allow childcare

service providers to obtain parking permits as written by City staff with the request that “health care services or childcare services” be modified to “health care services and/or childcare services” throughout. The motion carried unanimously.

12. ISSUE: Parking Meter Additions – Potomac Yard

DISCUSSION: Ms. McGraw presented the item to the Board. Chair Lewis asked if the Board should consider the addition of more disability parking spaces prior to the neighborhood being fully developed, to which Ms. McGraw responded that staff could simply bring any requests before the Board in the future as requested. Mr. Kane asked if disabled drivers must pay, to which Ms. McGraw responded that they do not have to pay.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: None.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mihalik to approve the installation of parking meters and implement the approved parking meter restrictions on:

- the south side of the 700 block of Dogue Street/Wesmond Drive,
- the west side of the 3000 block of Dogue Street,
- the west side of the 2800 block of Main Line Boulevard,
- the north side of the 600 block of Maskell Street,
- the north side of the 700 & 800 block of Seaton Street, and
- the west side of the 2900 block of Potomac Avenue.

The motion carried unanimously.

13. ISSUE: Residential Permit Parking (RPP) – Boundary Adjustment to Remove the Property at 301 N. Fairfax Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked if the developer had been notified of this proposal, to which Mr. Devilliers stated that the developer is very likely aware due to staff conversations with Planning & Zoning, but Mr. Devilliers will confirm. Mr. Osborne asked if the new apartment building will be built with onsite parking, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that it would. Ms. Mihalik noted that this building could have been removed from RPPD 2 in 2017 as part of RPP Refresh, to which Ms. North responded that it could have been but was not, however, it is now proposed to be converted to residential so removing it from the District would be more impactful.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Scott Corzine testified in support. ,

Ann Shack testified in support.

Raymond Eresman testified in support.

Anna Bergman testified in support and asked if this change would prohibit future residents of 301 North Fairfax Street from obtaining Guest and Visitor parking permits, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that it would.

Tom Foley testified in support.

Ellen Mosher testified in support.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve modifying the Residential Permit Parking (RPP) District 2 boundary to remove the property located at 301 N. Fairfax Street. The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

14. STAFF UPDATES: Mr. Devilliers provided the Board with an update on an amendment of the existing on-street carshare policy. Ms. McGraw provided the Board with an update on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget priorities for the Traffic and Parking Board and the first Subcommittee on Taxicab Regulations meeting.

Ms. Ebbers, Chair Lewis, and Mr. Kane expressed their general support for the proposed changes to the on-street carshare policy. Ms. Ebbers requested that free-floating carshare be included as part of this update. Chair Lewis noted that staff should also consider publicly owned off-street facilities such as library parking lots. Ms. Tucker noted that developers should be including carshare spaces onsite as well. Areas with low on-street parking occupancy and low car ownership should be prioritized.

Ms. McGraw provided the Board with an update on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget priorities for the Traffic and Parking Board. Mr. Kane stated that the Board should discuss in the future how previous priorities were addressed. Ms. Mihalik asked how much of the budget goes toward the Board's priorities. Mr. Kane stated that more money often results in more grant funding. Ms. Mihalik asked if some money should be focused on conducting more robust outreach, to which Mr. Kane responded that money should be focused on hiring more staff to address the Board's priorities and projects.

Ms. McGraw provided an update on the first Subcommittee on Taxicab Regulations meeting held prior to the meeting that evening. Chair Lewis stated that the taxi industry wants meter rates to be competitive with Arlington but that the vehicle age requirement and a surcharge to offset the increase in insurance rates recently should also be considered.

15. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:

- Ms. Tucker requested that staff provide an update on electric vehicle charging at a future Board meeting

- Mr. Osborne requested that staff provide the number of citations issued by the automated speed cameras to date during school hours
- Mr. Kane notified the Board that Ms. Carroll briefed the Transportation Commission on the progress and outcomes of the Safe Routes to School, Vision Zero, and Complete Streets programs to date

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kane moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Tucker. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.