

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022, 7 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Vice Chair Ann Tucker (virtual)
- Lavonda Bonnard
- Annie Ebbers
- Casey Kane
- Ashley Mihalik
- Jason Osborne

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: James Lewis

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
- Katye North, Division Chief, T&ES
- Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II, T&ES
- Alexandria Carroll, Principal Planner, T&ES
- Sean Martin, Urban Planner II, T&ES
- Dan Scolese, Civil Engineer IV, T&ES

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: no deferrals and withdrawals.
2. Approval of the July 25, 2022, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes: No comments from the Board.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Osborne moved approval of the minutes. Mr. Kane seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of the 2021-2022 Annual Report of the Traffic and Parking Board: Ms. North provide a summary of the suggestions received, including adding “Continue to consider...” for the third bullet related to equity and correcting the years for the Goals to reflect 2022-2023.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane moved approval of the 2021-2022 Annual Report. Ms. Ebbers seconded the motion, and the annual report was approved unanimously.

4. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on the Unit Block Extension, Parklet Update, Polk Avenue Sidewalk Appeal and Duke Street Traffic Mitigation. Mr. Kane asked about the status of the Duke Street Traffic Mitigation and Ms. Orr noted that there is not any data yet to share on how the pilot has been working. Mr. Osborne noted his observations about delays at some of the intersections near Witter Fields and that motorcycles can still get through the blocked area to the ramp. Ms. Orr

noted the Board would be reviewing the pilot program at their next meeting.

5. PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:

Greg Golubin spoke about traffic issues on Scroggins Lane related to the school, the new church, the width of the street, and cut-through traffic.

Mary Kate Sparrow (virtual) spoke about the need for a residential permit parking district for the neighborhood near the new High School and the lack of follow-up from staff. Mr. Kane noted that the Board has asked questions in the past and asked staff for an update. Ms. North noted staff was still working on an answer for this specific neighborhood and would be in touch directly with the resident to follow up.

CONSENT ITEMS

Ms. North noted that there were public speakers signed up for Item Number 7 (Scroggins Road RPP), so this item would be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Kane requested to speak on Item Number 6, so this item was also removed from the Consent Agenda.

There were no remaining items for the consent agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

6. **ISSUE:** Curbside Pick-up and Loading Zone – 2000 block of Mount Vernon Avenue

DISCUSSION: Mr. Kane noted his positive impressions with the new loading signage.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: No speakers.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane moved to approve the signage, Ms. Ebbers seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

7. **ISSUE:** Residential Permit Parking Signage – 2000 block of Scroggins Road

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item. Mr. Kane asked about the previous requests for RPP signage in this district and Ms. North noted prior to Covid there were a few blocks that requested the signage. Mr. Osborne asked how effective the restrictions have been in preventing students and whether this will push the problem elsewhere. Ms. North noted that the restrictions have been effective, but it may cause the parking issue to move to new blocks. She explained the process for adding restrictions on new blocks must be resident initiated and staff could not proactively add restrictions to a block. Mr. Kane asked about options for coordinating with the school and noted a desire to send a letter to the School Board and City Council regarding the parking issue.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Stephanie Meyer, spoke in support of the petition and noted the reasons for adding restrictions.

Mary Wills, spoke in support of the petition, and noted challenges with students parking too close to her driveway to be able to exit safely.

Greg Golubin, spoke in support of the petition, and noted some of the issues with the school permit process.

Alyssa Hartley, spoke in support of the petition, and noted the challenges with students parking on the street when school is in session.

Betty Livingston, spoke in support of the petition, and noted issues getting out of her driveway when students are parked on the street.

Karla Carroll, spoke in support of the petition, and noted some of the safety issues related to the request.

Richard Long (virtual), spoke against the petition, noting that students should be allowed to park on the street since there are not a lot of other options.

Sean Marietta (virtual), spoke against the petition, noting it would push the problem further down the block and onto other blocks.

Chris Jones (virtual), spoke against the petition, noting the decision should not be made in a vacuum of other options.

James Blakeney (virtual), spoke against the petition, noting the bigger problem was the parking on both sides of the street and suggested looking at eliminating parking on one side of the street.

Stephen Kenny (virtual), spoke in support of the petition, noting his lack of off-street parking and difficulties parking near his home during school hours.

Ed Kabay (virtual), spoke in support of the petition, noting the limited number of spaces and the need to provide parking for residents.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane moved to recommend the Director of T&ES install signage and send a letter to the School Board and City Council encouraging a holistic parking solution, Ms. Ebbers seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Tucker also requested staff explore other options with the residents for the street including painting parking areas and removing parking on one side of the street.

8. **ISSUE:** Stop Sign – Janney’s Lane and East/West Taylor Run

DISCUSSION: Mr. Scolese provide an overview of the proposal to add stop signs at this intersection. Mr. Kane asked about the use of paint instead of a Do Not Block sign and Mr. Scolese explained there was concern using paint would create confusion about where to stop and the preference is to use a sign to start and modify later if needed. Ms. Tucker asked about the traffic volumes at this location given the changes to the Duke/West Taylor Run intersection and Ms. Orr noted there were some volume reductions and more data would be provided next month. Ms. Tucker asked staff if this section of Janney's Lane was eligible for speed bumps, but Mr. Scolese stated it did not meet the criteria.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Emily Graves spoke in support of the stop sign and felt it would help with the traffic flow at that location.

Jim Durham spoke in support of the stop sign, noting the improved pedestrian safety from this change and encouraged additional measures, such as a flashing sign to ensure people are aware of the new sign.

James Byrnes from the Clover College Parking Civic Association spoke in support of the stop sign and noted this has been something the association has been sharing with the neighborhood to ensure residents are aware of the proposed change.

Hilary Wanke (virtual) spoke in support of the stop sign and noted that slowing down the traffic at this location will help with pedestrian safety.

Lisa Porter (virtual) spoke in support of the stop sign and noted that she has requested this during a previous meeting after a pedestrian crash had occurred at this location earlier this year.

Zachary DesJardins (virtual) spoke in support of the stop sign and suggested adding some additional signage to ensure people are aware of the new sign.

Craig Stouffer (virtual) spoke in support of the stop sign but expressed some concern about removing the flashing beacon since it has been helpful in allowing pedestrians to cross the street.

Peter Zander (virtual) spoke in general support of the stop sign but also asked if anyone has looked at speed bumps at this location to help slow vehicles down.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Osborne moved to recommend the Director of T&ES approve adding the stop signs and allowing the Director to make adjustments to mitigate any unforeseen issues related to the new signage with notification to the civic associations, Ms. Ebbers seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

9. **ISSUE:** City Code Amendment - Automated Speed Enforcement

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carroll provided an overview of the proposed City Code amendment. Mr. Kane asked about the school zone map and whether the camera would occur at the school zone sign. Ms. Carroll explained that they are still working through the best location to install the cameras. Mr. Kane asked about the inclusion of work zones in the amendment. Ms. Tucker asked about the before and after evaluation plan to determine effectiveness of the cameras.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Jim Durham spoke in support of the amendment and emphasized that reducing speed is one of the most successful ways to mitigate crashes and injuries.

Zachary DesJardins (virtual) spoke in support of the amendment and noted the benefits of improved enforcement from these cameras.

Mike Doyle (virtual) spoke in support of the amendment and noted the importance of slowing speeds around schools.

Erdeniz Bas (virtual) spoke against the amendment because he felt that there was not enough information about different options that had been tried and data explaining why they did not work.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane moved to recommend the City Council approve the City Code amendment and Ms. Mihalik seconded. The motion approved 5-1, with Ms. Bonnard voting against the motion.

10. **ISSUE:** Speed Limit Reduction – North Beauregard Street, Braddock Road, North Howard Street, and Seminary Road

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carroll provided an overview of the proposed speed limit reductions. Mr. Kane asked why King Street did not have a school zone and Ms. Orr noted that this was approved several years earlier but had not been implemented. Mr. Osborne asked about the impacts of a 15-mph speed limit on N. Beauregard near I-395 and Ms. Carroll noted the traffic in this area typically slows down the vehicles and the potential for crashes warrants the lower speeds. Ms. Mihalik thanked staff for the data and supporting documentation that was included for the docket item.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi, ACPS School Board member for District C, spoke in support of the speed limit reductions, especially near the many of the schools and noted the improvements to student safety. He noted there are many schools in the West End that will benefit from this.

Jim Durham spoke in support of the speed limit reductions and noted that many parents do not want their children walking to school due to excessive speeds along the routes to schools. He also recommended staff look at speed limit changes on S. Pickett St. from

35-mph to 25-mph, even though it is not within the allowed school zone distance from State code.

Bill Pugh (virtual) spoke in support of the speed limit changes and urged the City to look at the street design as well to ensure vehicles slow down.

Zachary DesJardins (virtual) spoke in support of the speed limit changes noting it will make it safer for pedestrians.

Mike Doyle (virtual) spoke in support of the speed limit reductions noting the significant impacts on pedestrians who are hit by vehicles traveling at even low speeds and the need for lower speeds.

Bonnie Oday (virtual) spoke in support of the speed limit reductions and noted the impacts of speed on she and her husband who are both visually impaired.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane moved to recommend the City Manager approve the speed limit reductions, Ms. Ebbers seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

11. **ISSUE:** Residential Pay by Phone Request – 400 block of S. Lee Street, 400 & 600 blocks of S. Union Streets, 100 block of Gibbon, and 100 & 600 blocks of Pommander Walk Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers provided an overview of the residential pay by phone request. Ms. Mihalik asked about the notification and outreach that were proposed with the changes to the rates and Ms. North provided an update about signage that was installed and Parkmobile app notifications that were provided. Ms. Mihalik also asked about the hours of restrictions that would be implemented.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Dan Morrison spoke in support of the petition and noted the parking issues he and his neighbors have.

Geoffrey Caldwell spoke in support of the petition and highlighted some of the parking issues related to commercial activity in the waterfront.

Henry Brooks spoke in support of the petition and noted the parking issues on his street.

Steve Milone, president of Old Town Civic Association, noted opposition to the residential pay by phone restrictions being added to the block faces adjacent to the park and general desire to continue to refine the requirements of this program.

Christine Roberts spoke in support of the petition and suggested looking at different hours of restriction around the park.

Lee Dunn spoke in support of the petition and supported some additional parking restrictions around the park.

Mike Jamroz (virtual) spoke in support of the petition but recommended adding parking restrictions around the park since those spaces are often used by non-park users.

Yvonne Callahan (virtual) spoke against adding restrictions around the park and noted that some of the residents who petitioned for these restrictions do not use available off-street parking.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers moved recommend the Director of T&ES approve residential pay by phone restrictions on these blocks (excluding the block faces adjacent to the park) and Mr. Osborne seconded. The motion passed 5-1, with Ms. Mihalik voting against the motion.

12. **ISSUE:** Parklets: More than 3 parklets on a block – 1100 Block of King Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers provided an overview of the proposed parklets on this block.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Steve Milone spoke in general support but emphasized the need for improved sidewalk clearance to improve pedestrian walkability near parklets.

Charlotte Hall spoke in support of the allowance for more than three parklets on the block, noting the positive impact the parklets have had for this block.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Osborne moved to recommend approval of more than three parklets on this block, Ms. Ebbers seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

13. **ISSUE:** Parklets - 1700 Fern Street (Ramparts Tavern)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers provided an overview of the proposed parklet and concerns that have been heard. Ms. Ebbers asked about the Parklet Requirements, in particular the requirements related to improved visibility and Mr. Devilliers noted the permanent permit program starting October 1 would address these issues.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Sean Gallagher, representing one of the business owners on the block, spoke in opposition of the parklet noting impacts to other businesses on this block.

Stephan Mann spoke in support of the parklet noting how much the parklet has helped the business during the pandemic and that they have tried to make the parklet look nice.

Susan Woodruff spoke in support of the parklet, noting she has not had any issues with parking the times she has driven to the block and the benefit of having outdoor dining.

Jane Stevens spoke in support of the parklet noting the benefit of having outdoor dining at this restaurant and the limited impact to residential parking.

Steve Swett spoke in support of the parklet noting the positive impact of having a parklet for this business.

Kevin Grenlief spoke in support of the parklet noting the benefit of having a parklet in the neighborhood and the limited parking issues.

Elliot Meier (virtual) spoke in support of the parklet and noted the economic benefit the parklet has had for the business.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Mihalik moved to recommend the Director of T&ES approve the parklet at this location, Ms. Ebbers seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

14. STAFF UPDATES

- Stop Sign Process – Mr. Scolese provided an overview of a proposal to create an administrative process for reviewing Local on Local stop sign requests and asked for feedback from the Board on what should be included. Mr. Kane noted that many of the existing stop signs have been in place for many years and sometimes stop signs are an expedient way to address intersection issues. Ms. Mihalik asked that other solutions be included in discussions about stop signs so residents understand what other options are available. Ms. Tucker noted some confusion in neighborhoods that have some 4-way intersections interspersed with 2-way stops.
- Duke Street Transitway – Ms. Orr provided an overview of the Duke Street in Motion process and noted the upcoming opportunities for public engagement. Mr. Kane noted the importance of the project and that the public needs to be involved in this effort. Mr. Osborne also noted the importance of this topic and asked that more time be set aside in the future for this topic as separate meetings.
- Legislative Updates – Ms. North provided an overview of the upcoming State Legislative process and asked if there was any feedback the Board wanted to provide to the Council. Mr. Kane noted that the Transportation Commission had already provided some feedback to the Legislative Director at their last meeting.
- FY 2023 Budget Priorities – Ms. North provided an overview of the FY 2023 Budget process and asked if the Board had any priorities to share with the Council as part of this process. Since feedback is due in November, Ms. North noted she

would share the previous year's priorities with the Board for further discussion at the next meeting.

15. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Mr. Kane provided an update on the Transportation Commission meeting noting the presentation from the Legislative Director and endorsement of a grant for the study of a pedestrian improvement across I-395 related to the Landmark Mall development

Mr. Kane also provided an update from the Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Group and the new development that is occurring in the planning area.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kane moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Tucker seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 PM.