

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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 – Katye North, Division Chief; Sheila McGraw, Principal Planner; and Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II.

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.
2. Approval of the July 24, 2023, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers, to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2023, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on:
 - Automated Speed Enforcement in School Zones
Mr. Kane expressed concerns with the fact that, despite the 25 mph speed limit on West Braddock Road and the 15 mph speed limit near schools on West Braddock Road, drivers are still speeding and should be cited using automated speed enforcement as soon as possible.
 - Public Input Opportunities for Corridor Projects
Mr. Kane noted that the timeline for these opportunities is too far out and that the City should implement short-term solutions in the meantime, specifically on Eisenhower Avenue, such as reducing the speed limit.
 - Curb Extensions Near Schools
Mr. Kane noted that the timeline for these curb extensions is too far out and that the City should implement short-term solutions in the meantime. Ms. Tucker asked if it is likely that the City will be awarded this particular grant funding and why these curb extensions near schools are so low priority and not lumped in with general Complete Streets and Vision Zero projects.
 - Capital Bikeshare Ridership Update
Mr. Kane noted that some 2023 data on the City’s Capital Bikeshare webpage and dashboard is either missing and/or outdated and should be updated accordingly.
 - Lower King Street Update
Ms. Mihalik asked why there are still barricades instead of bollards on the Unit block of King Street, to which Mr. Devilliers replied that the City is working on installing bollards

on that block later this year. Ms. Tucker asked if it is the City or the businesses paying for the new lights on the 100 block of King, to which Ms. North responded that the City has paid for the lighting.

- Zoning for Housing/Housing for All Update
- Traffic and Parking Board Annual Report

4. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:**

Doug Domenech and Meg Smith, residents of the Venue Condominiums and Townhomes, requested that the Board reconsider their decision to exempt District 9 permitholders from the restrictions and metered parking on the 900 block of North Fairfax Street.

Lauren Kramer, Sarah Bobbin, Christine Schlacter, Heather Bobotek, Christine Brown, and Yvonne Callahan raised concerns with the increased traffic volumes, pickup and drop-off operations, and illegal vehicular parking/standing associated with The Basilica School of Saint Mary at 400 Green Street. Some requested that Saint Mary's pay for additional police officers to act as traffic guards to direct drivers and prevent driveways and crosswalks from being blocked, while Ms. Callahan suggested that the school pay to bus some number of students to and from school. Rose Lieu spoke in support of the school's attempts to ameliorate the pickup and drop-off operations as well as work with the neighborhood to address issues raised. Rob Loia, principal of Saint Mary's, addressed the concerns raised by the various neighbors and stated that the school now enrolls 742 students—an increase of 27 from last school year—and has found that that has resulted in an increase of approximately 20 additional vehicles picking up and dropping off students on a daily basis. Principal Loia stated that the school has continued to remind the students' parents about the pick-up and drop-off procedures.

BOARD ACTION: Chair Lewis asked City staff what other actions the Board could take regarding the decision made for the 900 block of North Fairfax Street given that City staff's recommendation to keep the meter restrictions was approved by the Board at their July meeting. Ms. McGraw responded that the Board could vote to bring the item back in October for reconsideration. As such, Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bonnard, that the Board consider the resident's request to remove metered parking requirements on the 900 block of North Fairfax Street at their October Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Lewis asked Ms. Kramer what The Basilica School of Saint Mary's responses to the neighbors' concerns were previously regarding pickup and dropoff traffic, to which Ms. Kramer stated that the neighbors received few to no responses, and that the responses they did receive were inadequate. Mr. Kane asked if the officers directing traffic were on- or off-duty officers, to which Ms. McGraw responded that they are off-duty. Mr. Kane asked for an update on construction, to which Ms. McGraw responded that construction is expected to be completed at the end of November. Ms. Tucker asked Ms. Lieu when her child finished their last year as a student at The Basilica School of Saint Mary, to which Ms. Lieu responded June 2023. Ms. Mihalik asked if the officers are directing vehicular traffic or acting as crossing guards for pedestrians, to which Ms. Callahan responded they are acting as traffic guards. Mr. Osborne asked Principal Loia what other

changes the school could make to improve the situation, such as staggering the start time for different ages, to which Principal Loia responded stating that the school has a committee looking into other possible solutions to mitigate negative impacts on the neighborhood. Chair Lewis asked City staff what requirements there were for this development, to which Ms. McGraw responded that the school's Parking Management Plan goes into effect once construction is complete in November. Ms. Tucker asked Principal Loia if the school is willing to hire another police officer to direct traffic, to which Principal Loia responded that it would be considered. Chair Lewis requested that City staff continue to keep the Board updated until school construction is complete.

CONSENT ITEMS

16. **ISSUE:** Residential Permit Parking Restrictions Modification – 400 block of South Royal Street

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: None.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Tucker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kane, to recommend the Director of T&ES modify the existing residential permit parking restrictions on the 400 block of South Royal Street to 2-hour parking 8AM-11PM, Monday-Saturday, and 11AM-11PM on Sundays. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

17. **ISSUE:** Curbside Pick-up and Loading Zones – 3000 block of Dogue Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Chair Lewis asked City staff what Kaiser Permanente and the American Physical Therapy Association stated regarding the proposal, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) owns the building and that this added zone would benefit Kaiser patients looking to be picked up and/or dropped off. Mr. Osborne noted that adding the signs might not prevent taxi and ride-hailing drivers from dropping employees off on East Glebe Road, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that hopefully Mr. Froemke can notify NIB colleagues of the new zone and to use that zone when getting to and leaving from the office.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Charles Froemke testified in support of NIB's petition for this new pickup/dropoff zone citing concerns of taxi and ride-hailing drivers dropping visually impaired NIB employees off on East Glebe Road where parking and standing are prohibited due to the lack of parking/loading lanes.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to recommend the Director of T&ES install 'Active Loading and Curbside Pickup Only' signage for the one parking space closest to East Glebe Road on the east side of Dogue Street. The motion carried unanimously.

18. ISSUE: Residential Pay by Phone – 300 block of South Fairfax Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Chair Lewis asked City staff which start time options are provided in the City Code for Sunday parking restrictions, to which Ms. North responded 11 a.m. is the only start time option provided. Chair Lewis asked the public speaker if she would be amenable to parking remaining unmetered on Sundays, to which Ms. Radigan responded that she is not opposed but does not feel comfortable speaking for the whole block. Chair Lewis asked City staff to reach out to the Old Presbyterian Meeting House to ask if they require a multispace meter for churchgoers who prefer to physically pay for parking rather than via ParkMobile.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Ellen Radigan testified in support of the petition made by the residents of the 300 block of South Fairfax Street and stated that she would personally be amenable to a later start time for the metered parking requirement on Sundays if City Code allowed it.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborne, to recommend the Director of T&ES implement a residential pay by phone requirement (\$1.75 per hour) for the 300 block of South Fairfax Street. The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

19. STAFF UPDATES: Ms. McGraw provided the Board with an update regarding the 2024 Legislative Package and asked for feedback from the Board about items they would like the City to make of the General Assembly. The Board noted the need for more automated enforcement, including speeding in areas other than schools and work zones and more locations for red light cameras. City staff will check with Transportation Engineering on the number of red light cameras the City is allotted and how many are currently in operation.

Ms. McGraw also reminded the Board that the Taxi Commission Subcommittee will be holding their first meeting next month and she will be emailing the members of that subcommittee with more information.

Ms. McGraw notified the Board that proposed exemptions from residential permit parking restrictions for childcare workers would be considered at the next meeting.

20. BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: Chair Lewis updated the Board on the arrival of the new T&ES Director, Adriana Castañeda, on September 11, as well as a meeting on the I-495 HOT Lanes affecting Alexandria at the Lee Center on Tuesday, September 19. Chair Lewis also noted that there will soon be an opportunity to weigh in on options for Commonwealth Avenue where it passes under the elevated railroad near Cameron Street.

Mr. Kane provided the Board with the following updates:

- Tim Lovain and Leslie Catherwood filled empty seats on the Transportation Commission

- The Transportation Commission will be meeting again on September 20, 2023, for the first time since June so there are no other Commission updates at this time
- The Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Advisory Group is meeting on September 19 at 7:00 PM at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Mihalik. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.