

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022, 7 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Chair James Lewis
- Vice Chair Ann Tucker
- Lavonda Bonnard
- Annie Ebbers
- Casey Kane
- Ashley Mihalik
- Jason Osborne

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
- Alex Block, Principal Planner, T&ES
- Katie North, Division Chief, T&ES
- Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II, T&ES
- Lalit Sharma, Deputy Director, T&ES
- Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, T&ES
- Alexandria Carroll, Principal Planner, T&ES
- Martin Barna, DASH, Director of Planning and Marketing
- Erika Gulick, ACPS, Director of Capital Programs, Planning & Design

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: Duke Street Update will be discussed at the end of the meeting during staff updates

2. Approval of the June 27, 2022, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

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

3. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on the Metro Shutdown, Automated Speed Enforcement, and Complete Streets Five Year Plan. Ms. Mihalik asked about the purpose of removing the spaces on West and King Streets and Mr. Block explained they were needed for bus turning movements. Mr. Lewis asked whether the temporary changes made to the King Street Metro lot, including relocating the taxi stand area, had been reverted back to the previous configuration.

4. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:**

Erin Rooks spoke about issues with the current curb cut process and concerns with the lack of engagement during the process. Ms. Ebbers asked about the current process and Mr. Sharma provided an overview.

Ryan Rooks spoke about concerns with the recent curb cut approval that occurred and issues with the process. Mr. Lewis asked if there was a different process for reviewing curb cuts near public buildings, such as libraries and Ms. Orr noted that it is the same process. Ms. Tucker asked why this would not come to the Board since parking would be removed and Mr. Block explained that the Board does not review parking removal for processes that may be outlined in other parts of the Code, such as curb cuts. Mr. Osborne asked if there was already a curb cut to this lot, and Mr. Sharma noted that this is a subdivision that required a new access point. Mr. Kane asked if a driveway is required and Ms. North noted that the Zoning Ordinance requires 2 off-street parking spaces that would have access from a driveway or alley.

Charlotte Spinner was interested in the Duke Street Traffic Mitigation proposal and had sent in comments. She is opposed to cutting off West Taylor Run and opening up East Taylor Run to Duke Street. The changes made in Phase 1 seem to be working well and have encouraged people to stay on the main streets.

Mark Pedley lives on N. Early Street near the new Alexandria City High School and new affordable housing development and is concerned about parking that may occur in his neighborhood as a result. Mr. Kane asked for an update on how staff is addressing this concern. Mr. Block noted staff is still reviewing whether this neighborhood would be eligible for the staff-initiated process. Mr. Lewis requested that when a decision was made to include it in the written updates.

CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Kane made a motion to remove Items 5 and 6 from the Consent agenda. Ms. Ebbers seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

There were no remaining items for the consent agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

5. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request for a new Traffic Flow and Safety Procedure Plan at Charles Barrett Elementary School

DISCUSSION: Ms. Gulick presented to the Board. Ms. Tucker asked how the No Turn signage was in place over the last school year without any approval from the Board. Mr. Block explained that the staff had been actively managing the site and this proposal would formally add the signage to implement this.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Peggy Clancy, member of the Board of Directors of Park Fairfax, requested the City and school look for additional parking spaces for staff since many staff park on street since there is not enough space at the school.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane moved to approve the changes; Ms. Tucker seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

6. **ISSUE:** Installation of Residential Permit Parking District 13 Signage in Potomac Yard

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Asha Mede asked for clarification whether the residents on Richmond Highway would be eligible for permits since they were not included in the petitions for restrictions and whether residents of the apartment buildings would also be eligible for permits. Mr. Devilliers explained that Richmond Highway residents would be eligible for permits since they are part of the new district but the apartment buildings are not within the district boundary and resident would not eligible for permits unless the boundary was expanded.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers moved to recommend the Director of T&ES install signage. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion; it carried unanimously.

7. **ISSUE:** Consideration of removal of five (5) parking spaces along North Pitt Street and Pendleton Street to accommodate DASH Line 34 realignment.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barna presented the item. Ms. Tucker asked if any parking would be returned on N. Fairfax resulting from moving the line to N. Pitt St; Mr. Barna noted that Fairfax Street would still have other bus routes that required stops. Ms. Tucker asked about using cleaner fuel buses in more residential areas; Mr. Barna explained the fleet make-up and noted that DASH just retired the last older diesel bus so there was not as high of a need to designate specific buses to specific routes. Mr. Kane noted that removing parking does not necessarily mean the area would be clear of vehicles and asked if this would be a location for scooter corrals. Mr. Barna noted that they would not recommend scooter corrals at these locations and would prefer to work with T&ES on striping to deter parking.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

David Kaplan, chair of the DASH Board, spoke in support of the proposal and noted they were excited for the opportunity to provide transit service for this dense neighborhood.

Ellen Mosher, resident of St. Asaph Street, noted concern for the removal of parking spaces on Pendleton Street and suggested the route be relocated one block north to use Wythe Street. Mr. Lewis asked staff to clarify what the Board can take action on. Ms.

Orr noted that the DASH Board has already approved the route change, so the Board is being asked to remove parking at bus stops along that route. Mr. Osborne asked why parking removal for bus routes was not incorporated into the process for establishing the bus route. Ms. Orr and Mr. Block explained what the Board was authorized to approve and what fell under the purview of the DASH Board.

Stephen Milone, spoke in support of Ms. Mosher's comments to reroute the line along Wythe Street noting it would serve several new higher density buildings.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bonnard to approve the removal of five parking spaces; the motion was unanimously approved.

8. **ISSUE:** Installation of Residential Permit Parking District 14 Signage in Potomac Greens

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item. Mr. Osborne asked about staff rationale for not having later hours for the parking restrictions. Ms. North noted that the parking restrictions are intended to address the times when there is a demand for parking, which in this case would likely be workday hours between 8AM-5PM. She also noted that adding hours of restriction when there is not a need put additional demand on already strained parking enforcement resources and the proposed hours are consistent with other neighborhoods near Metro Stations.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

George Tromba, Potomac Green resident, expressed his thanks to the staff for the RPP process, but noted that with the park at the north end there may need to be parking restrictions on Sundays and later in the evening.

Bruce Thompson, Potomac Greens resident, noted that the residents voted for parking restrictions until 11PM and ending at 5PM would not be effective. He also noted that the administrative process proposed by staff was too arbitrary and needed more clarity for the standard they would need to meet.

Paul Kiamos, Potomac Greens resident, supports later hours for restrictions and believes the later hours would deter parking.

Haven Campbell, Potomac Greens resident, supports later hours for restrictions to maintain integrity of the neighborhood. Ms. Ebbers asked if the homes have garages and she responded that they do.

Nathan Doane, Potomac Greens resident, supports the creation of the district but supports later hours for the restrictions.

Jim Welton, Potomac Greens resident, supports the later hours for the parking restrictions and feels that as a residential area there is no reason to have people who do not live in the

neighborhood park in the neighborhood. Ms. Mihalik asked for clarification as to why the residents feel the later hours are more of a deterrent.

Kathleen Kiamos, Potomac Greens resident, noted that many non-residents of the neighborhood will park in the evening for events or airport parking.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Osborne made a motion to recommend adding parking restrictions from 8AM-11PM, Monday through Saturday. No one seconded the motion, and the motion failed.

Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bonnard to approve adding parking restrictions from 8AM-5PM, Monday through Saturday and allow the staff to administratively approve extending the restrictions to 11PM. Ms. Tucker offered a friendly amendment to require an update about the restrictions within 4 months of the Metro Station opening. The motion passed with a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Lewis voting against the motion.

9. **ISSUE:** Consideration of Parking Removal on Polk Avenue for a Sidewalk

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carroll presented the item. Mr. Kane asked about the number of parking spaces that would have been removed with the original proposal and Ms. Carroll noted that both options would have removed the same amount of parking. Ms. Mihalik asked about the parking that would be removed and the restrictions for those spaces. Mr. Block clarified that these restrictions are part of the District 12 parking district which prohibits non-resident parking. Mr. Osborne asked if there would still be enough room for parking with the sidewalk. Ms. Carroll explained the cross section and noted there would not be enough room for two-way traffic and two parking lanes. Ms. Tucker asked about the proposed compromise and whether the preference was for preserving the park or preserving the parking. Ms. Carroll noted that the feedback received had been strongly in favor of protecting the park. Mr. Lewis asked whether keeping parking would make the street safer, but Ms. Carroll noted the width of the street would not make it safe to keep it if the sidewalk was added. Mr. Lewis asked about removing parking on the south side of the street instead of the north side, but Ms. Carroll indicated there was less support for removal on the south side.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Carol James spoke against the loss of parking in the neighborhood.

Kathleen Burns spoke against the loss of parking in the neighborhood, noting that the benefit of a sidewalk for a few users was not worth the cost of construction and loss of parking.

Shirley Downs spoke against the loss of parking and noted she was very involved in the creation of the parking district and has been involved with parking issues in the neighborhood for many years.

Jeremy Hogg, resident across the street from the proposed sidewalk, noted he originally raised the need for the sidewalk but does not support the loss of parking. He proposed keeping some of the spaces and installing a slightly higher retaining wall.

Gill Abernathy expressed thanks to the staff for the work on this, but still does not support the proposal because most of the walkers are not on this street, water issues, and parking issues. Mr. Osborne asked if staff had looked at water runoff from the plan; Ms. Carroll noted staff had looked at the design and determined it would not increase impervious area significantly. Mr. Kane suggested installing a pervious sidewalk, but Ms. Carroll noted staff determined there was not a measurable different in runoff.

Andrea Deitz confirmed the school bus route and express support for the proposal. He is open to an alternative that would limit the parking loss, but the sidewalk is definitely needed.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mihalik to remove nine parking spaces. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to remove five (5) loading zones to allow eight (8) parklets to seek permits for commercial parklets at those locations

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Charlotte Hall, managing director of Old Town Business Association, spoke in support of removal of the loading zones for the use by parklets.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Tucker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborne to remove the loading zones. The motion passed unanimously.

11. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to remove an ‘Active Loading and Curbside Pickup Zone’ from the 800 block of S. Washington Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

Morgan Babcock asked if there was still an opportunity to make any of the temporary loading zones permanent. Mr. Block noted he would follow up with Ms. Babcock about the process for adding new zones. Ms. Babcock encouraged staff to use the business association points of contacts to help get the word out about business issues.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to remove the loading and curbside pickup zones at 800 S. Washington Street.

INFORMATION ITEMS

12. STAFF UPDATES:

Parking Pricing Proposals: Mr. Block provided an overview of the pricing proposal. Mr. Lewis asked if staff was concerned about the \$5 max evening parking being significantly lower than adjacent garages, such as the Alexandrian, which charge much higher rates. Mr. Block noted our goals are to encourage people to use the garage. Mr. Kane asked about how people will know about the more expensive blocks and encouraged staff to promote to all residents in the City and explain why staff is making the change.

Duke Street Traffic Mitigation: Ms. Orr provided an overview of the pilot program and noted she would continue to keep the Board up to date about this project.

13. COMMISSIONER UPDATES:

No updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kane moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Tucker seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 PM.