General Questions

1. Have we renamed 'West End'? Will the West End neighborhood now be referred to as 'Alexandria West'?

The name "Alexandria West Small Area Plan" was established in 1992 as part of the 1992 citywide Master Plan. If desired, a name change for the plan area can be discussed as part of the planning process.

2. Can you please send an email with accessing the poll?

Yes, we will send an eNews and an email and a WhatsApp message with the link to the poll.

3. How do I participate in WhatsApp?

Connect with us at 571.358.7569 through WhatsApp messenger which is an App that can be downloaded from the App Store. Or you can contact José DelCid, Urban Planner, Department of Planning and Zoning at 703.746.3837 or jose.delcid@alexandriava.gov.

4. I'm not sure about the platform you are using. Have been unable to do the polls.

I'm so sorry to hear that. Slido is being used during the presentation only. If you are having difficulty participating during the meeting, you have the option to fill the poll out on the project website alexandriava.gov/AlexandriaWest or paper polls at events in the community. If you contact us via email at jose.delcid@alexandriava.gov we can assist you.

5. There are 50-60 people answering these questions; is this a useful sample size? Just curious how this sample size will be interpreted by the planners.

In addition to those participating during the kick-off meeting, the poll will also be distributed to community members after the kick-off meeting via eNews, WhatsApp, and events out in the community so that it can be filled out online or on paper copies.

6. Will there be an advisory group?

In this large planning area home to a multicultural multilingual community, the City will make every effort to engage all parts of the community in ways that reduce barriers to participation for all. This means that community feedback and discussion will occur through a variety of outreach strategies online and in person, through meetings and pop-ups in multiple languages at a variety of times and locations throughout the Plan area. In order to provide equitable opportunities for community members to participate and ensure that all voices can be included and heard, the process is not proposed to include an advisory group. All members of the community are invited to participate, discuss, and collaborate on a shared vision for the future.
by participating in the range of options that will be provided. All engagement materials and feedback from each phase of the process will be posted to the project website and shared with the community in subsequent phases of the process. In addition to reaching out to individual stakeholders through the options discussed above, Staff is also contacting all civic, business, non-profit and community organizations and agencies to gather feedback and guidance. To request a meeting, information, provide suggestions or be placed on our distribution list, please contact José DelCid at jose.delcid@alexandriava.gov.

7. What do each of the phases mean/what is the scope of work in each phase?

The phases represent "rounds" of community engagement on progressive planning topics, each building upon information gathered and discussed in previous phases over the course of the process. Each phase will consist of a variety of outreach/engagement venues and opportunities to share information and solicit feedback. A draft schedule of topics will be shared on the project website at alexandriava.gov/AlexandriaWest.

8. How are you coordinating with Fairfax County?

We have met with Fairfax County staff regarding the planning process and will continue to coordinate with them throughout the process.

9. Since the Chair of the Environmental Policy Commission lives in the West end, you might want to reach out to the EPC.

We will, thanks!

10. Appreciate the presentation and dialogue very much. Will today’s presentation slides be available for downloading for further review/recall? Thanks.

Yes, everything from the meeting including a meeting recording will be available on the project website alexandriava.gov/AlexandriaWest.

11. Can we get a copy of the poll results tonight and in the future?

Yes, the poll results from the meeting as well as the final results from the online poll (that will be open until the end of December) along all meeting materials throughout the process will be available on the project website alexandriava.gov/AlexandriaWest.

12. When will the Planning Committee share updates on the Landmark redevelopment plan and process?

Information about Landmark Mall redevelopment can be found here: alexandriava.gov/Landmark

13. What development is proposed in the area?

This webpage provides comprehensive information about development in Alexandria: alexandriava.gov/Development
Additional information about proposed, approved or under construction development that pre-dates the Alexandria West planning process will be provided in future phases of the planning process.

14. Is Alexandria West generally considered safe? What's being done to clean up Quantrell Ave (lots of trash behind the shopping ctr) and deter corner beggars?

As one of the data points during the planning process, we will provide information on crime/safety and will follow up on your comment about Quantrell Avenue.

15. If we signed up for the zoom meeting today, will we be notified of future virtual and in-person meetings and opportunities for engagement?

Yes, all emails will be added to our email distribution list.

16. Can we get a copy of the participants questions?

Yes, everything from the meeting will be available on the project website alexandriava.gov/AlexandriaWest.

17. What are you planning?!?

Nothing is being planned yet. We are at the very beginning of the process, which means we are in the information gathering phase, learning from the community about what they like about their neighborhood, what are the challenges, and areas for improvement. Your feedback will inform objectives and guidance for the future Plan for the Alexandria West area.

18. How is this SAP being integrated with the Landmark and Seminary Plans?

The Alexandria West Small Area Plan is generally located on the north side of 395. The planning process will take into account plans already in place in adjoining areas, and will not change Landmark and Seminary/Strawberry Hill Small Area Plans.

19. What opportunities are there for residents to speak directly with each other about the impact of this plan? Is there a town square? What’s app or forum?

There will be community meetings where community members can speak directly with each other and once the current poll is complete, there will be a comment forum on the project website. In addition, you can connect with others interested in the Plan on WhatsApp. For more information about any of these, visit alexandriava.gov/AlexandriaWest.

20. When will Fios be available??

Please visit alexandriava.gov/Fios for information.

21. Never heard about the workshops. When will they be done again?

To date, the planning process has included the November 15 kick-off meeting as well as a variety of in-person pop-ups in locations around the plan area. All upcoming events will be posted on the project website and advertised on eNews and WhatsApp.
22. How do the Stonegate Communities get representation and further participate in this process?

Everyone in the community is invited to participate in the process. Staff has contacted all civic and homeowner associations in the area to provide information about the process and how to participate. If you haven’t heard from us, please contact jose.delcid@alexandriava.gov and we will set up a time to meet and ensure that you and/or your organization is informed about all aspects of the planning process and how to get involved.

Equity

1. What outreach has been conducted to the African American community and the descendants of the formerly segregated Black Alexandria community?

We have been reaching out to many community organizations in the Plan area as we want to make sure this is a planning process in which equity and culture are emphasized and all voices are included. If we are missing any groups or communities, we want to know about it and learn how best we can engage them. Please contact jose.delcid@alexandriava.gov to share information about any other suggested groups so we can ensure they are informed about all aspects of the planning process and how to get involved.

2. Are these polls on slido.com translated for NEP/LEP participants?

The slides and community poll are posted on the project website in multiple languages. The poll includes the same questions as tonight’s Slido questions. We will also provide printed copies of the poll upon request.

3. With so many Afghans, why isn’t Pashto or Dari a language in the poll?

Thank you for the question! We used two data sources to inform our language interpretation for Alexandria West. First, American Community Survey (ACS) 2020 citywide data indicates that the non-English languages most spoken at home are Spanish (13%), Amharic (5%), and Arabic (2%). Because that data is only available on a citywide basis, we also consulted with Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) to learn about most requested languages in the Alexandria West area. ACPS also indicates that Spanish, Amharic, and Arabic are the most requested in Alexandria West, and that Dari and Pashto are growing languages in the community. ACS data indicates that Dari and Pashto languages represent approximately .3% of the Alexandria population.

In addition to considering the data and guidance from ACPS, our recent community engagement efforts, including local pop-ups and the community poll, are seeking to learn more about community needs and challenges, including language interpretation needs, to ensure that we can respond and be as inclusive as possible in future community outreach.

4. If you say the proportion of Afghans is large, and then you don’t include their languages, that’s really dismissive of persons in the community.

Please see Equity Question 3 above.
5. **What outreach has been conducted to the African American community and the descendants of the formerly segregated Black Alexandria community?**

Live answered. See Equity Question #1.

6. **A comment, not a question - please try very hard to reach the actual residents of Alexandria West. Given the majority White and homeowners on the webinar (based on the poll), it doesn't seem to capture a very large portion of the residents. As is typical, a majority of the immigrant community don't typically join these community forums.**

Thank you for your comment. In addition to online and in-person traditional meetings, we will be holding in-person "pop-ups" in person at locations/times that we hope will be convenient for the immigrant community. For example, we will pop up at rec centers, in common areas of multifamily buildings, at Global Foods Market, etc. If you have additional specific recommendations, we welcome them. Please reach out to jose.delcid@alexandriava.gov with specifics - thank you!

7. **What kind of community engagements are planned to reach some of the largest demographics in the area, such as the Ethiopian or African diaspora communities ... were you able to connect with community leaders or associations related to those demographics to help with engagement?** Thanks

Thank you! Engagement is just beginning - we will continue to reach out to these communities, and we welcome any and all suggestions at Jose.delcid@alexandriava.gov for locations to target or groups to contact.

8. **So folks can send recommendations on groups to you Jose to reach out to because african communities together is mostly african immigrants from my understanding? I think the question was mainly how you reach out to Black Americans like NAACP or CCNA.**

Thank you for the suggestion! We will reach out to those groups and continue to welcome any suggestions for additional groups at jose.delcid@alexandriava.gov.

9. **What outreach has been conducted to the African American community and the descendants of the formerly segregated Black Alexandria community?**

See Equity Question #1.

10. **In what other ways will you be engaging with the community, so the people who live in the West End are accurately represented?**

See Equity Question #6.

Housing Affordability

1. **My name is Sossah and I am the State Policy Manager over at African Communities Together. We have been working with quite a few tenants in the West End area. We are noticing that there are quite a few, for lack of a better term, predatory developers and landlords that are starting to kind of almost claim stake in this area. So I am kind of wondering is there a**
concrete due diligence plan that will be implemented to ensure that these type of developers and landlords do not continue to take part in our community? Because we are just seeing a lot of displacement of blue-collar workers, Black and Brown residents, and other vulnerable communities.

Through the planning process, we will work closely with the community and stakeholders to implement housing policies that maximize affordable housing creation and preservation and minimize and mitigate displacement if redevelopment occurs. In addition, the Office of Housing’s Landlord Tenant Relations team, the Department of Community and Human Services, and the Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness have been working in the community along with ACT and TWU on eviction prevention. Staff have seen an acceleration in rent increases. The City has conducted four workshops in Alexandria West to help tenants learn about their rights and responsibility under Virginia law as they relate to evictions, leasing, maintenance, and landlord-tenant law; another series of trainings are anticipated to be held in February. Staff is committed to engaging with the community and stakeholders to learn about their specific housing concerns.

2. With African Communities Together. Understand that not everything in the West End slated for redevelopment. Some apartment buildings. In those apartment buildings, has the city done any study to see how many of those units slated for redevelopment are market affordable to really understand the effect of redevelopment on renters in the community?

Approximately 15-20% of the rental housing stock in Alexandria West are market affordable units (defined as units that are affordable at up to 60% of the area median income). These units are not committed affordable: any increases in rent may move them out of the market affordable category. In addition, there are approximately 700 units in Alexandria West that are committed affordable units.

At the time (re)development applications are submitted to the City for review, staff will be able to evaluate what degree of market affordable and/or workforce affordable rental units are at risk. As was noted above, approximately 15-20% of the rental housing stock in Alexandria West are market affordable units.

3. Thank you for commencing this presentation about the “Alexandria West” Plan. A significant part of this plan includes housing. In your pre-review of documentation and discussion with community leaders, have you spoken to anyone on the Steering Committee for a “Partnership for Healthier Alexandria (PHA)?” The PHA oversees the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), a five-year plan, 2022-2025 that has “Housing” as one of three strategic strategies. A review of the CHIP is recommended. (Thank you)

Thank you for your comment – we will make sure that PHA and CHIP are part of the background and input for Planning.

4. What is being done for the unhoused individuals in Alexandria and the DMV area at large?

The Department of Community and Human Services, in collaboration with the Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness, works to identify funding, supportive services and programming to support those experiencing homelessness. The Office of Housing is also working to expand
the number of deeply affordable housing units through public private partnerships with affordable housing developers.

5. Thank you for your comments about the "Alexandria West Plan and your response to include the PHA and the CHIP, "as part of the background & input for planning." (I inadvertently, sent my question anonymously; intended to include my name, JeanAnn Mayhan, Steering Committee Member- PHA. If you reach out to the Chair of the PHA, please feel free to mention my name, as raising this question.)

Thank you for your comment. Housing staff is collaborating with the Department of Health on the implementation of the housing recommendations in the CHIP.

6. Since the majority of the housing west of I-395 is rental, how are the landlord/owners of all this housing being included in this planning process?

We have conducted direct outreach with owners and property managers of all the multifamily buildings and many have agreed to host in person popup events, share information, and offer other ways to ensure that the renter community is informed and has an opportunity to participate. We will continue to do everything we can to engage renters, landlords, and owners. We also welcome further suggestions.

7. Have you documented the incidents of predatory landlord incidents?

Our Landlord Tenant Relations team tracks calls received regarding landlord-tenant issues and is actively engaging with ACT and TWU and other stakeholders to learn about renter concerns.

8. Tamara, thank you so much for your response to my question about the CHIP/Housing Strategy ("YES/YEAH"). Let me know if I can be a conduit for any future interaction or communication with the PHA.

Thank you!

9. When will you implement rent control?

The City does not have the authority to institute rent control. The City’s powers are limited to those granted to it by the State of Virginia. The City has a voluntary rent increase cap policy and encourages property owners to adopt the policy. We recognize, however, that increases in rent, especially after the height of the pandemic, are resulting in high levels of housing cost burden on lower- and moderate-income renters. Expanding committed affordable housing options is one way in which housing cost burden can be addressed over the longer-term.

10. Evictions are excessive displacing primarily minority tenants. I’ve attended the Courts and observed this. The City can save more money by providing financial assistance to keep people housed rather than spending money on shelters, medical and mental health services, rising crime, student displacements and other social ills that result from landlords raising rents and utilities unfairly. Data exists to support this. Let’s include it in upcoming meetings.
Thank you for your comments. The City is actively tracking eviction data (unlawful detainer summons filed and writs of eviction issued) as well as exploring ways to expand more deeply affordable housing options (at 40% of the area median income) and supportive housing. We shall incorporate this topic into future housing discussions.

11. I prefer high rises but garden style is far more affordable. Working class people are being driven out of Alexandria.

Thank you for your comments. The plan will strive to create a vision that provides for a range of housing options over the longer-term that welcome households of different incomes, ages, and abilities.

12. What’s being done for the unhoused individuals in Alexandria and the DMV area at large?

See Housing Affordability Question #4.

13. What about rent control?

See Housing Affordability Question #9.

Transportation

1. Interested in all the input from the meeting. Want to emphasize that increase in the area in the West End, especially at King St/Beauregard St & Beauregard/Seminary Rd, the traffic gets difficult and if increased. What are the road situations and possibilities thinking about in handling traffic if population increases around here?

The City is doing a traffic study as part of the planning process which will start in a few weeks after the kick-off meeting. At the intersection of King and Beauregard, there is a project planned and TE&S is looking at funding to improve traffic capacity as well as safety and accessibility for transit, cyclists, and pedestrians. At Beauregard and Seminary, previously there was a proposed intersection redesign called the Ellipse. The City is reviewing intersection design options for this intersection to determine if the Ellipse is still the best approach to meeting the transportation needs. Progress on that project will be coordinated with the public and with the Alexandria West Planning team.

2. Thank you. Live on the very western point and can see Fairfax County. How is the City coordinating with Fairfax County? Also, are there any considerations for greater access over the highway to the new Landmark development?

The City is communicating with Fairfax County and Arlington County as this is a regional location and we want to hear from them to better coordinate. The Landmark/Van Dorn plan recommended a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over I-395 from Landmark to Alexandria West. The City has applied for grant funding to do a feasibility study on that potential bridge connection and it is something that can be considered further as part of Alexandria West planning process.

3. Are there plans for repairing sidewalks?
The City has annual funding for sidewalk repair and improvements such as new curb ramps. Some of these are slated for this part of the City. Through the plan, we will also review and recommend improvements to the pedestrian network.

4. Live in the West End area at Mason and Van Dorn around S Reynolds. Notice a lot of blue-collar workers trying to get to work and walking along Duke St/Little River Turnpike and have to get through busy construction area. Will there be better options for pedestrian and cyclists to get to Duke St from Little River Turnpike?

The transportation study will be looking at all the levels of connectivity. We see a lot of potential different levels of connectivity (pedestrian, cycling and recreational) and will be working with the community. Outside of planning process, VDOT plans to improve the sidewalk over the I-395 bridge from Duke St in Alexandria to Little River Turnpike in Fairfax County.

5. I was wondering if there any plans to rework intersection of Kenmore Av and N Van Dorn St. In years living, it slightly a dangerous intersection. Quite a few accidents, it might be helpful to have a traffic light or rework the way it connects. Was wondering if there were any plans for that?

There are no immediate projects in the pipeline to assess this intersection. As part of the planning process, the transportation study will look at that intersection. We intend to do a larger review of the entire area (Kenmore and Beauregard and over the interstate). Some improvements could be recommended as part of that review.

6. Live in Parkstone in the eastern end of the district. The Alexandria West district is centered about the West End Transitway. Hope there are plans to coordinate both the bike and pedestrian access, the housing, and creating a vibrant community to both leverage and enable the West End Transitway?

Thank you for your input. We certainly going to be looking at improving the quality of the neighborhood in the area and will be coordinating on these elements.

7. I live in Southern Towers. With respect to transportation study and transportation planning, how are you planning to work with WMATA and DASH to ensure bus service is not disrupted? Want to know how that is impacted with the plan.

We will be coordinating with DASH, WMATA, the upcoming BRT, and other projects. We will work with the community and do not expect negative impacts to transit as part of this plan.

8. I want a pedestrian bridge to the new hospital and landmark development. Is that in the discussion?

Live answered. See Transportation Question #2.


Live answered. See Transportation Question #1

10. When will the flood damage to the trail be addressed?
Design of the repairs for the Bridge at 4600 Duke Street is complete and the construction contract is anticipated to be awarded in November. Construction is anticipated to be complete in April/May 2023. Design of Tier 1, the repairs to the Holmes Run Trail at Dora Kelley Park, Holmes Run Trail at Morgan Street cul-de-sac and Holmes Run Trail at North Ripley Street, is anticipated to be complete in February 2023. Construction is anticipated to be complete in Summer/Fall 2024.

11. Are there plans for repairing sidewalks?

See Transportation Question #3 above

12. Does the traffic study include Parking?

At this time, the traffic study for the Plan is not anticipated to include parking.

13. I like that! There definitely needs to be a better connection over 395! Good one, Neil. My concern is the intersection of Kenmore and N Van Dorn....right now, in my humble opinion....that intersection is somewhat dangerous.....in the 5 years I have lived in Alexandria West, I have seen several traffic accidents at that intersection

Live answered. See Transportation Question #5 above.

14. "Please look into speed bumps or some form of controlling speed near smaller streets like on North Armistead. There are many people who speed down this hill and it’s dangerous with the hill and curves for people crossing. If this is out of the scope of this plan, please let me know where this can be coordinated. Thank you"

The City has a Speed Reducer Program through which residents can request speed reducing elements like speed bumps in their neighborhood. We encourage you to explore the eligibility criteria and application here: alexandriava.gov/transportation-planning/speed-reducer-program.

15. My humble opinion is that we need a Traffic Light at the intersection of Kenmore and N Van Dorn St.

See Transportation Question #5.

16. Are there any plans to improve pedestrian access along Van Dorn Street between Taney and the Landmark development and transit center?

The City has procured grant funding to improve the access from the Landmark development to Holmes Run Parkway. At this time, there are no plans for improvements between there and Taney Ave. Please note, this corridor is not in the Alexandria West Plan boundary.

17. Is a Parking study included with the traffic study? Parking in this area is difficult already.

See Transportation Question #12.
18. There are 3 elementary schools with a 4th one on the way in Alexandria West. The middle school, Hammond, with other feeder elementary schools, is located on the other side of 395. In what ways will Alexandria West and the other side of 395 work to connect the school communities?

   Great question, thanks! Connectivity and access to community amenities will be an important topic of discussion as part of the planning process.

19. Beauregard Street was identified to be a prominent public transport corridor. Please tell us what has been approved and how that relates to the prospective 2024 Alexandria West plan.

   Transit and connectivity will be a key element of the Small Area Plan update. Design progress continues on the West End Transitway, which can be followed here: alexandriava.gov/transportation-planning/west-end-transitway

Land Use

1. Someone asked when updates will be on the Landmark development. Tomorrow night (November 16) at 7 p.m., will be a hybrid meeting at Patrick Henry Rec Center. You can access meeting links on the City Planning and Zoning webpage for Landmark/Van Dorn Small Area Plan.

   Thank you so much for sharing that information.

2. There are some approvals for changes that have already taken place. For example, Newport Village at the intersection of Beauregard and W Braddock Rd, there was a proposal to replace existing low-rise properties with taller properties. Were they approved and will take place?

   24 units are planned to be demolished to allow for the construction of the planned multifamily building. Impacted residents will receive notification and relocation assistance consistent with the approved Relocation Plan.

3. Missing item is environmental Justice and addressing the climate crisis

   Thank you for your input. Your comment will be recorded as part of the meeting input and inform next steps.

4. Regarding environment and climate- we can address those issues if dense construction is implemented, trees are included in the plan, access to public transportation is increased, and alternative energy sources are included.

   Thank you for your input. Your comment will be recorded as part of the meeting input and inform next steps.

5. Any updates on the upland park on seminary road and Beauregard? Will the construction start soon? Any consideration to the traffic that will add to the area

   Upland Park is going through the post-approval engineering review process. Staff anticipates they will begin construction early next year. A pre-construction meeting will be held with the
community before any site work occurs. As approved, the project includes a new 0.5 acre public park and 92 townhomes. As part of the project, a new stoplight will be installed at Fairbanks Ave and Seminary Rd.

6. **Were major housing and retail replacements approved for Newport Village at the intersection of West Braddock and Beauregard that was circulating a year or two ago? If so, please describe.**

A proposal was approved for a new 383-unit apartment building at that intersection. The project is in engineering review, and we anticipate it will begin construction next year. Prior to any site work, a pre-construction meeting will be held with the community.

7. **Why is Newport still leasing? Everyone there is going to be displaced,**

24 units are planned to be demolished to allow for the construction of the planned multifamily building. Impacted residents will receive notification and relocation assistance consistent with the approved Relocation Plan.

8. **Not sure if you will address this in today's presentation but wondering if you know when will the construction for upland park on seminary road start and end?**

Answered. See Land Use Question #5.

9. **Any considerations for roadside vendors in regard to the redevelopment?**

We are at the beginning of the planning process. If we hear this type of input that the neighborhood would like to see, it is something that we can certainly discuss as we move forward.

10. **Are there any considerations for roadside vendors in regard to the redevelopment?**

Live answered. See Land Use Question #9.

11. **Can you be more specific about roadside vendors? Are we talking food trucks? People selling stuff on tables on the sidewalk?**

While it’s unclear what the previous questioner specifically had in mind with their question, as mentioned, we are at the beginning of the beginning of the planning process and if desired this is a topic that we can discuss as we move forward.

12. **If we are getting rid of garden-style apartments in Alexandria, it seems that we are delving a lot of multi-story glass and chrome buildings and also taking away the colonial historic look of Alexandria. Is that intentional?**

We are at the beginning of the process. We will work together with the community on a vision for the future. We have yet to discuss the future of any particular housing typologies or architectural styles in the area. We have historic districts within Old Town that are important to the city and at the same time, we have frequently heard from residents in the West End that the West End should be distinct from Old Town. We work to balance the existing historic
13. **The glass and chrome look of new buildings is eroding the colonial, historic look of Alexandria. Is that intentional?**

Live answered. See Land Use Question #12.

14. **Is there pressure to promote large redevelopments and concomitant tax revenue for the City of Alexandria?**

Private property has development rights per the existing zoning ordinance and small area plan guidance. This planning process will consider updates to the existing guidance for future redevelopment regarding land use, housing affordability, open space, transportation, infrastructure and other topics.

**Parks/Play Space**

1. **What are you doing to preserve the trees around the parks and new housing developments?**

We look forward to hearing more feedback about this topic as we move into the planning process when we can discuss suggestions regarding trees and tree canopy and new development.

2. **Do we have any updates on the Winkler Preserve?**

This Fall, ownership of Winkler Preserve was transferred to NOVA Parks in September. NOVA Parks is working on new details about how the preserve will operate. The City is looking forward to having more conversations as they take ownership.

3. **Do you have any updates on the Winkler Preserve? I heard there was a change in ownership.**

Live answered. See Parks/Play Space Question #2.