

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, MAY 22, 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 – Hillary Orr, Deputy Director; Katye North, Division Chief; Sheila McGraw, Parking and Curbside Manager; Jen Monaco, Transit Programs Manager; Dan Scolese, Civil Engineer; and Max Devilliers, Urban Planner.
Virtual: Sean Martin, T&ES, Shared Mobility Planner

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.
2. Approval of the April 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 April 24, 2023, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on:
 - Duke Street in Motion
 - Potomac Avenue/Glebe Rd Intersection Improvements
 - Potomac Yard New Metro Station Bus Facilities
 - Crossing Issues at Braddock Road & North Hampton Drive
 - Holmes Run Parkway & North Ripley Street Curb Ramps and Trail Access
 - Dockless Corrals Update
 - Residential Pay by Phone and Courthouse Garage Parking Pricing Update
 - Right-of-Way Electric Vehicle Charging Pilots and Initiatives
4. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:** Prior to the Public Discussion Period, Mr. Lewis disclosed his position as Condo Board President of his residential community that is situated on/adjacent to Duke Street and vowed to vote on Duke Street in Motion-related items in a manner that is fair and unbiased. Carter Flemming, Chair of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA), spoke in opposition to implementing dedicated bus lanes on Duke Street, stating that the ‘Duke Street in Motion’ project is not ready for approval. Roy Byrd also spoke in opposition to implementing dedicated bus lanes on Duke Street. Mr. Kane mentioned that the Transportation Commission met during the week of May 15 to discuss preparing a letter to City Council on ‘Duke Street in Motion’. The Commission is currently waiting on recommendations from the Advisory Group before moving forward. Mr. Kane is supportive of the project and

would like to see it continue to move forward. Ms. Mihalik requested that staff provide a summary of the survey conducted for the project and what has been heard. Ms. Monaco responded that staff has heard varying support depending on the form of engagement and demographics of the respondents. Mr. Lewis asked what coordination has taken place on bus lane enforcement with AFD and APD as well as on connections to other BRT routes being planned in adjacent jurisdictions. Ms. Monaco responded that staff has held interdepartmental meetings with AFD and APD—which both support center-running bus lanes on Duke Street because curb-running lanes are more difficult to enforce and less beneficial to emergency vehicles looking to bypass congestion—and has met with Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority on BRT corridor implementation analyses. Ms. Monaco will respond to Mr. Lewis’ email of ‘Duke Street in Motion’-related questions on May 23, 2023.

Zach DesJardins relayed an anecdote of a driver disobeying a stop sign on Franklin Street at South Union Street and making the turn onto South Union Street quickly and unsafely. Mr. DesJardins requested that a sign be installed to ensure drivers are parking at least 20 feet from the intersection and 15 feet from the fire hydrant on Franklin to improve safety. Ms. Ebbers asked staff if visibility at this intersection was reviewed and Mr. Scolese stated that the vegetation around the stop sign will need to be investigated, but that a sign prohibiting parking 15 feet from the fire hydrant could be installed after Ms. Mihalik requested that of staff. Mr. Lewis asked if there is a way to ensure that stop signs remain visible at all times, to which Ms. North responded that RPCA tries to maintain all vegetation in the public right of way throughout the city, but 311 requests from residents and businesses help to draw attention to specific problem areas. Mr. Lewis asked staff to follow up in June with a written update of progress at this intersection.

Carolyn Griglione asked how she will be updated on issues that are being handled by City staff and if the new West Braddock Road speed trailer installers check that they are and remain visible. Mr. Lewis responded that staff authorized the removal of the additional crosswalk on North Hampton Street at West Braddock Road for this summer, while Ms. North reiterated that 311 requests should be submitted for vegetation maintenance requests as well as any other requests that the public would like to remain updated on as progress on the task proceeds. Ms. Tucker asked if RPCA can maintain vegetation that is growing on private property, to which Ms. North responded that, yes, RPCA can maintain parts of the vegetation that extend into the public right of way.

Mr. Kane stated his support for the changes on Glebe Road at Potomac Avenue but is concerned with the change in stonework in the Metrorail plaza to differentiate between pedestrian and cyclist spaces—Mr. Kane asked what the next solution would be if this stonework solution fails. Ms. Orr stated that there is no other plan for the plaza at this time but that staff would evaluate the plaza once the project is complete. Mr. Kane asked if there would be opportunities for the public to provide feedback on the Metrorail plaza area, to which Ms. Orr responded that staff will be looking at data instead. Mr. Kane requested that staff talk with the public about the different pedestrian signals. Ms. Mihalik stated that there seems to be conflict at the south entrance where the trail and the construction access road intersect, to which Ms. Orr stated that they would discuss the matter offline to better understand exactly where the issue lies.

Mr. Kane shared his concerns with the cyclist-only access point to the Holmes Run Trail needing signage and a crosswalk. Mr. Scolese responded that he would look into that particular access point and follow up with the Board in the future.

Mr. Lewis asked staff if e-bikes are being parked correctly, to which Ms. McGraw responded that staff continue to monitor improperly parked mobility devices, especially as the number of e-bikes present in the city increases. Ms. McGraw stated that staff can share a map of improperly parked e-bikes with the Board in the future upon request.

Mr. Lewis stated that the pricing changes made in Old Town effectively increased parking demand in the Courthouse Garage, and Ms. McGraw stated that staff would be bringing more information on parking outcomes to the Board in July 2023.

Ms. Mihalik is supportive of the EV charging pilot but shared her concerns with drivers investing significant sums in Level 2 on-street EV charging stations due to the likelihood that the driver would assert that the public parking space is essentially their property. Mr. Lewis stated that staff should share any outcomes of the pilot with the Board.

BOARD ACTION: No votes took place as part of the Public Discussion Period.

CONSENT ITEMS

Ms. Tucker requested to remove Item Number 5 from consent.

10. **ISSUE:** Parking Space Removal – Mount Vernon Avenue

DISCUSSION: Ms. McGraw presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked if delivery vehicles can be booted, to which Ms. North responded that the City cannot boot a vehicle unless it is associated with three outstanding citations. Mr. Kane asked if flexposts can be installed in this parking space moving forward to physically prevent drivers from parking in the space and if the Board can learn from Parking Enforcement where these issues are persisting, to which Ms. North and Ms. Orr confirmed that staff can get block-level data on citations issued but flexposts wouldn't be installed in this particular location.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Steve Harris testified asking for mirrors at these two intersections due to visibility concerns and the crash that occurred recently at Mount Vernon Avenue and the DelRay Tower exit. Ms. Ebbers asked if the mirrors seen around the city are private or public property. Mr. Scolese stated that the mirrors are privately owned because the FHWA discourages the use of mirrors due to mirror degradation over time resulting in poorer visibility.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bonnard to recommend the Director of T&ES remove one parking space on Mount Vernon Avenue closest to the Del Ray Tower entry/exit. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

11. ISSUE: Curbside Pick-up and Loading Zone – 100 block of South Payne Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Mr. Lewis asked how effective these new signs are at ensuring drivers are using them specifically for pickup, drop off, and loading only, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that staff are currently evaluating their effectiveness at every location and plan to bring an analysis of said effectiveness before the Board by the end of 2023. The Board also requested that these zones be recertified every year similar to the reserved disability parking spaces. Mr. Lewis asked if staff considers nearby loading zones and to provide more information about the business—such as hours of operation—in the future, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that staff do consider nearby loading zones—as stated in the docket memo—and this has even resulted in the denial of applications where numerous loading zones exist nearby.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Yvonne Callahan testified in opposition due to the lack of parking demand in this area on Monday mornings. Ms. Callahan also stated that the loading zone request process should be codified and asked why these new signs are not time-delimited. Ms. Callahan stated that drivers are parking in these active loading zones long term and that businesses should be before said signage is installed. Ms. Tucker asked which other zone has time restrictions, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that the one on the 1200 block of Pendleton Street is. However, upon review of the signage, that is no longer the case. Ms. Bonnard stated her support for the request. Ms. Tucker asked when the business would open, to which Mr. Devilliers responded late June 2023. Steve Milone, President of the Old Town Citizens Association, testified in opposition because Mr. Milone believes staff should wait until the business is open and demonstrates a need for the signage before it is installed. Ms. Mihalik asked who owns the parking lot behind 110 South Payne Street and if the business can use that lot. Staff checked GIS records which show that the parking areas behind 110 South Payne Street are owned by the owners of the properties fronting King Street, so the business owner would need to enter into an agreement with one of those property owners to use those spaces.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Tucker moved to defer this item until September, seconded by Ms. Ebbers, to which Mr. Kane disagreed due to the need to support new independent businesses from the start. The motion was opposed four to three.

Ms. Mihalik made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bonnard to recommend the Director of T&ES install ‘Active Loading and Curbside Pickup Only’ signage for the one parking space in front of 110 South Payne Street upon the business owner’s receipt of the Certificate of Occupancy. The motion carried four to three.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 12. STAFF UPDATES:** No staff updates were provided. Ms. Orr stated that the job posting for T&ES Director closed on May 19, 2023, and it would be a few months before a Director is hired.

- 13. COMMISSIONER UPDATES:** Mr. Kane provided the Board with the following updates:
 - Transportation Commission announced that a couple grants were approved for ‘Duke Street in Motion’
 - The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) is drawing designs for rail bridges, particularly discussing the potential of raising the bridge above Commonwealth Avenue
 - Everyone should see the new Potomac Yard Metrorail Station which is now open

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ebberts moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Mihalik. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.