

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024, 7 P.M.
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair James Lewis, Vice Chair Ann Tucker, Annie Ebbers, Lavonda Bonnard, Casey Kane, and Ashley Mihalik.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Osborne.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: T&ES – Hillary Orr, Deputy Director; Katye North, Division Chief; Sheila McGraw, Principal Planner; Dan Scolese, Civil Engineer IV; Alex Carroll, Principal Planner; Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II; and Silas Sullivan, Urban Planner II.

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.
2. Approval of the November 27, 2023, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bonnard to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2023, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on:
 - New Crossing at Holmes Run Parkway and North Ripley Street
 - Capital Bikeshare Record Ridership Year 2023
 - King/Callahan/Russell Intersection Improvements Project

Mr. Kane stated that Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plans should all include a pedestrian accommodation so that the pedestrians are not forced to walk in the travel lane. Mr. Kane also stated that MOT plans are publicly available for development projects prior to construction, but are not publicly available for public realm projects such as this one, yet they should be. Ms. Mihalik asked if the temporary crosswalk at King Street and Sunset Drive can be made permanent given its usage and utility, to which Ms. Carroll responded that Staff intend to make the crosswalk permanent moving forward.

- Parking Enforcement Contractor Update

Ms. Tucker asked at which time most parking restrictions begin, to which Ms. McGraw responded that most begin at 8 a.m. Ms. Tucker raised concerns about the parking enforcement contractors starting work at 7 a.m. given that they are focused primarily on enforcing the posted parking restrictions, and stated that the most issues heard are about midday on weekdays and evenings on weekends. Ms. McGraw responded that this is a pilot program and the Police Department will be refining the contract et cetera based on lessons learned via this pilot.

- City Code Amendment – Residential Parking Permit (RPP) Restrictions for In-home Childcare Providers Update

- Eisenhower Avenue Transportation Study Update
- Dockless Mobility Update
- Pick-up and Drop-off at the Basilica School of Saint Mary Update

4. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:** Marge McNaughton raised concerns about the elimination of a right turn at West Taylor Run and Duke Street because a slip lane would decrease safety and would increase cut-through traffic. Ms. McNaughton also stated that the volume data does not call for a new bike lane; cyclist and pedestrian facilities should be combined into a shared-use path instead of separate facilities. Bob King spoke to thank the Board and City Staff for the expansion of Capital Bikeshare over the years.

BOARD ACTION: None.

CONSENT ITEMS

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion to remove both items from consent.

5. **ISSUE:** No Turn on Red Restrictions - Four Intersections Along North Saint Asaph Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Sullivan presented the item to the Board. Ms. Tucker asked why some or all of these intersections could not be converted to all-way stops, to which Mr. Scolese responded that staff is considering it. Ms. Tucker asked if there is a safety difference between intersections controlled by traffic signals versus by stop signs, to which Mr. Scolese responded that it depends on the intersection, urban landscape, and area density. Chair Lewis added that staff will no longer be installing signage that states that turning at a red light is only prohibited when pedestrians are present due to safety reasons.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Dane Lauritzen testified in support due to safety reasons. Josh Barnathan testified in support due to safety reasons.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bonnard to recommend the Director of T&ES install No Turn On Red restrictions along North Saint Asaph Street at Montgomery, Madison, Wythe, and Pendleton Streets. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **ISSUE:** All-way Stop Addition - Intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Windsor Avenue

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to recommend the Director of T&ES approve an all-way stop at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Windsor Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

7. ISSUE: No Turn on Red Restrictions - Multiple Intersections Along Duke Street

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carroll presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane stated that City staff should consider traffic signal timing and traffic volumes on Duke Street at North Ripley Street and North Paxton Street due to congestion on those streets, which will likely be exacerbated by this change. Chair Lewis reiterated that bicycles/cyclists should be detected at these intersections, and also mentioned that many drivers cut through the gas station at the entrance of the Shoppes at Foxchase which should be addressed as well as the traffic flow caused by DaVita at Duke Street and South Pickett Street. Ms. Mihalik asked if the outreach for this proposal was more or less effective than for other proposals along Duke Street and how it differed, to which Ms. Carroll responded that eNews was used specifically for this because the effort spanned multiple areas slightly instead of just one neighborhood.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Tom Kopko testified in opposition due to the time that this proposed restriction would add for drivers making turns onto Duke Street given how similar restrictions have affected Cameron Station Boulevard. Mr. Kopko claimed that there is a lack of data to support these proposed changes and suggested that right turns on red be allowed after making a full stop and that signage be installed stating drivers will be fined for related violations.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Mihalik made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to recommend installing No Turn On Red restrictions along Duke Street at North Ripley, South Reynolds, North Paxton, and South Pickett Streets, as well as the entrance to the Shoppes at Foxchase. The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. STAFF UPDATES: Mr. Scolese provided the Board with an update regarding the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Ms. Tucker asked if staff can include in docket items moving forward how the recent changes to the MUTCD might have affected the docket item in any way. Mr. Kane asked if any of the experimental projects were included as changes to the MUTCD, to which Ms. Carroll responded that priority sharrows and bike signals were not but will check on advisory bike lanes.

Ms. Orr provided the Board with an update regarding Duke Street at Cambridge Road/Roth Street. Mr. Kane commented that Option 3 prohibits being able to drive straight from Roth Street to Cambridge Road. Ms. Tucker stated that many neighbors are excited about Option 3, and added that the curb cut on Cambridge Road for 7-11 creates gridlock for the intersection when the 7-11 parking lot is full and asked if staff would look into if the curb cut could be closed.

Mr. Scolese provided the Board with an update regarding Duke Street at West Taylor Run. Ms. Mihalik and Mr. Kane raised concerns about high speeds and the resulting conflict between drivers and cyclists at Duke Street and Moncure Drive/Hilton Street. Ms. Tucker asked how cyclists would cross West Taylor Run Parkway. Mr. Kane asked how the proposals for Duke Street at West Taylor Run Parkway would come together with those for Duke Street at Cambridge Road i.e., which two options would produce the best result when combined. Mr. Kane also asked if the City would need to wait a certain number of years to make changes to the proposal given that these projects are funded by VDOT, to which Mr. Scolese responded he would check with VDOT.

9. COMMISSIONER UPDATES:

- Mr. Kane updated the Board that the Eisenhower West Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group met to discuss the conversion of the former Victory Center into apartments to complement the surrounding townhouses being built.
- Mr. Kane updated the Board that the Transportation Commission approved grant applications for safety improvements on Seminary Road west of I-395.
- Chair Lewis updated the Board that the Sub-Committee on Taxicab Regulations met on January 22, 2024, and will bring their recommendations for City Council before the Board at the February 26 meeting.
- Chair Lewis updated the Board on it being Mr. Osborne's final term and that Mr. Osborne can no longer serve on the Board due to his work, so his seat will become vacant.
- Ms. Tucker notified the Board that she will be absent for the February 26 meeting.
- Ms. Bonnard notified the Board that she will be absent for the March 25 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ebbers moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Tucker. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.