

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024, 7 P.M.  
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair James Lewis, Annie Ebbers, Lavonda Bonnard, Casey Kane, Ashley Mihalik, and Kursten Phelps.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Vice Chair Ann Tucker

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** T&ES – Katie North, Division Chief; Sheila McGraw, Principal Planner; and Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II.

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.
2. Approval of the January 22, 2024, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on:
  - First Contra-Flow Bike Lane Installed on East Glendale Avenue
    - Ms. Ebbers noted that some residents are concerned about new conflict points for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians created by the contra-flow bike lane and suggested that new signs be installed alerting drivers of the new contra-flow bike lane and possibly new stop signs as well. Ms. McGraw responded stating that staff will convene internally to if and what can be done to address these concerns. Chair Lewis stated that he, too, would prefer another stop sign on East Glendale Avenue. Ms. Phelps asked if the information for the project is in multiple languages and, if so, which languages, to which Ms. McGraw responded that she would check with staff internally and notify.
  - Dockless Mobility Application Update
    - Mr. Kane asked if the overall contentiousness of the program has increased or decreased since its implementation, to which Ms. McGraw responded that the new 311 capabilities has improved operator response times which has hopefully helped to mitigate overall concerns about the program, however, staff can check to see if the number of complaints via 311 has increased or decreased since the 311 ticket for scooters was created.
  - Parking Enforcement Contractor Update
    - Mr. Kane asked how long the pilot program is, to which Ms. McGraw said she was not sure and would have to check Police. Mr. Kane also asked if

parking is now more readily available as a result of the pilot program, to which Ms. McGraw responded that staff only currently has data on the number of citations issued, not on-street occupancy rates nor number of complaints. Mr. Kane asked if the contractor had similar issues as Police in terms of hiring enforcement officers for the pilot program, to which Ms. McGraw responded that the contractor is meeting the terms of their contract, therefore they have hired who they need successfully. Chair Lewis asked what the extent of the pilot program is given that he has heard of contractors walking on blocks further south of King Street, to which Ms. McGraw responded that the pilot involves King Street between the river and the Metrorail Station, and two blocks north and south of King Street. Chair Lewis asked what the contractors can cite drivers for doing, to which Ms. McGraw responded that they are only meant to cite drivers per the posted restrictions.

4. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:** Marge McNaughton opposes converting the Duke Street Service Road near West Taylor Run Parkway into a one-way street with bike facilities and the removal of the right-turn lane for drivers. Ms. McNaughton also opposes introducing a slip lane due to safety reasons. Ms. McNaughton stated that bike facilities on the Duke Street Service Road are not warranted per federal standards and suggests that the City commence with a pilot program instead of a full-build change.

**BOARD ACTION:** Chair Lewis asked about the timeline of the Duke Street Service Road project, to which Ms. McGraw responded that it would go before the Board in a few months. Chair Lewis requested that staff notify the Board of any concerns raised by residents and their reasoning for such concerns prior to presenting options to the Board.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

5. **ISSUE:** Parking removal – Utica Avenue and South Ingram Street

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked how residents learn about how to request the removal of parking, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that residents initially reach out via email, phone, or 311, and then staff inform them of the full process. Mr. Kane asked how Parking Enforcement is notified of parking-related changes, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that staff will notify Police if a change is approved, especially if enforcement of the change will boost its level of impact. Mr. Kane asked if staff hears complaints from delivery/logistics companies regarding citations issued to drivers that are parked illegally, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that it isn't often, but staff do hear complaints, and tell them that delivery drivers are not exempt from the ordinances laid out in the City Code and that the City is working on accommodating the increase in delivery, pickup, and drop-off business. Chair Lewis asked if residents have expressed concerns about the process for requesting changes to traffic and parking being too onerous, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that

he hasn't received any explicit complaints and most requestors do eventually submit the required documentation to bring feasible requests before the Board for consideration.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** None.

**BOARD ACTION:** Ms. Mihalik made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers, to remove 30 feet of on-street parking on the north side of Utica Avenue immediately east of South Ingram Street as well as 60 feet of on-street parking on the east side of South Ingram Street immediately south of Duke Street. The motion carried unanimously, with Ms. Phelps abstaining from the vote.

6. **ISSUE:** Pickup and Drop-off Loading Zone – 900 block of North Henry Street

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Ms. Mihalik asked if staff considered implementing time restrictions to this block to compel turnover, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that staff had indeed considered it, but turnover would not be enough to ensure available curb space for pickups and drop-offs at Carpenter's Shelter throughout the day and night, and noted that a mix of parking restrictions—and lack thereof—in an area helps to address the different needs that drivers have. However, staff would be supportive if residents eventually request the implementation of time-restricted parking on the remainder of the 900 block of North Henry Street due to any issues resulting from the lack of parking restrictions there. Chair Lewis raised concerns of creating such a long PUDO zone which might encourage drivers to speed. Mr. Kane asked if the PUDO zone could be reduced to 40 feet, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that doing so might very well result in drivers ignoring the PUDO zone altogether due to navigation technologies instructing drivers to continue driving until the very entrance of Carpenter's Shelter 80 feet from the intersection.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** None.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Phelps, to install 'Active Loading and Curbside Pickup Only' signage for the 80 feet of curb space north of the entrance to 930 North Henry Street. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **ISSUE:** Loading Zone – 200 block of South Union Street

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked if the loading zone in front of Hotel Indigo is available to all drivers, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that is indeed. Ms. Phelps asked if staff could reduce the size of the proposed loading zone in front of 215 South Union Street, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that this could be done if desired, but staff wanted to ensure that freight trucks would fit in the space and maintain consistency along the block for ease of enforcement. Ms. Mihalik asked if the new townhouses will have onsite parking spaces, to which Mr. Devilliers responded they would indeed. Ms. Ebbers asked if there would be any consequences of deferring this item to a later date, to which Mr. Devilliers stated there would be no consequences other than disadvantaging the businesses requesting this change. Mr. Kane

asked why staff did not recommend this loading zone be a PUDO zone instead, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that PUDO zones are meant to be in effect at all times of day and night, and this particular location did not warrant that. Mr. Kane asked if food delivery services would use this loading space, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that his understanding is that the three businesses in the building are looking for a reliable place to unload their vehicles from, not necessarily have a food delivery service as an option. Ms. Mihalik asked what the restrictions would be after the curb space is no longer a loading zone, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that it would be metered parking until 9 p.m. and free unrestricted parking otherwise and on Sundays. Ms. Mihalik asked if the loading zone could have shorter hours, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that it could, but the property manager of the building requested the hours specified in the docket.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Charlotte Hall, Old Town Business Association, testified in opposition. Charlotte Stewart, the property manager with Rector Best, testified in support stating that only loading space would be needed. Yvonne Callahan, Old Town Civic Association, testified in opposition stating that staff should not receive administrative approval to remove only certain zones and not others.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Kane made a motion to defer this docket item to the May 2024 meeting, seconded by Ms. Ebbers. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. **ISSUE:** Pickup and Drop-off Loading Zone Administrative Procedure

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked how the public would be notified of the newly approved PUDO zone, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that staff could notify the presiding business and civic association(s) or post a public notice at the site of the approved zone if desired by the Board. Chair Lewis suggested that a public notice be posted at the side of the approved zone for two weeks prior to signage installation and that staff be given the ability to make the PUDO zones time delimited. Ms. Bonnard asked if the signatures of support would be enough in terms of public outreach, to which Ms. Ebbers responded that it would only in turn notify the occupants and property owners of the properties directly fronted by the approved zone, which is likely not enough given the demand for parking. Ms. Phelps asked if staff could explicitly prohibit PUDO zones from being requested and approved in replacement of bus stops or bike lanes in the eligibility requirements, to which Mr. Devilliers agreed. Ms. Mihalik asked to be reminded of what the PUDO zone signage looks like, so Ms. North showed the Board a mock-up of the signage. Ms. Mihalik asked if operating a parklet would preclude the same applicant from requesting a PUDO zone, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that it would not since that applicant would still need to collect signatures of support from the property occupants and owners of the properties directly fronted by the approved zone. Ms. Mihalik reiterated that more PUDO zones could make conditions more unsafe for cyclists et cetera given the accommodation for drivers to weave in and out of the parking lane quickly.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** None.

**BOARD ACTION:** Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kane, to approve the proposed administrative procedure to allow the Director of Transportation and Environmental Services to add and remove pickup/drop-off loading zones—with the ability to make the zones time-delimited—that meet the approved criteria, given that staff would provide the public two weeks’ notice using posted signage at the site of the approved zone, and would explicitly prohibit requests for pickup/drop-off loading zones that would negatively impact bus stops or bike lanes. The motion carried unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

9. **STAFF UPDATES:** Ms. McGraw updated the Board that the taxi subcommittee’s proposed changes would be brought before the Board at their March 25 meeting for consideration.

## **10. COMMISSIONER UPDATES:**

- Mr. Kane provided updates on the following from Transportation Commission:
  - Electric Vehicle planning (L1, L2, and L3 charging stations across the city)
  - No significant cuts to WMATA’s budget nor service, however, cuts to either are still possible next year
  - Debrief on the addition of ‘No Turn on Red’ along North Saint Asaph Street as well as Duke Street
  - Improvements on Sanger Avenue at the Dora Kelley Trail to improve the pedestrian and cyclist experience
  - VDOT is working on making safety improvements to Shirlington Circle over I-395
- Mr. Kane provided updates on the following from the Eisenhower West Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group:
  - Passport Mini will be improving their site but will have no impacts on the roads and sidewalks around the site
  - Redevelopment into a hotel and residences is proposed for the former Vulcan site including a cyclist and pedestrian bridge over Backlick Run. The developers have proposed a mulch trail to which the cyclists have opposed
  - Redevelopment along Stevenson Avenue calls for buffered bike lanes in front of the new building
  - The Eisenhower Avenue Transportation Study is looking at concepts to improve cyclist and pedestrian safety, decrease vehicular speeds, and add connections along the corridor
- Mr. Kane asked for an update on the timeline for the stop signs along the Mount Vernon Trail
- Mr. Kane asked if a new stop sign was installed on Valley Drive at Preston Road and, if so, if the stop sign was allowed per the new MUTCD or staff simply forgot to notify the Board of the new sign via a written update
- Chair Lewis reminded the Board that the members shall not have discussions via email but must instead pass on comments et cetera to staff. All emails sent and received regarding Board-related matters should be retained for FOIA purposes

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kane moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ebbers. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.