



Dear Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Jackson and members of the City Council,

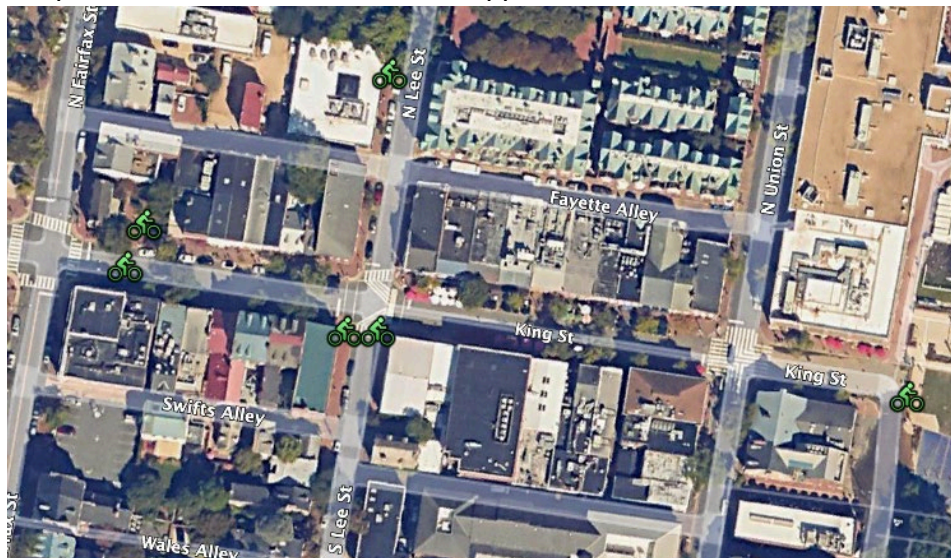
The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) strongly supports pedestrianizing the 200 block of King St. The zero and 100 blocks have been a rousing success and provide some important lessons learned such as incorporating Capital Bikeshare and bicycle parking into the design.

Although Alexandria has participated in Capital Bikeshare since 2012, the nearest Capital Bikeshare stations are at least one block away from the pedestrian zone. They are less visible and less convenient for users looking to dock a CaBi bike to access the pedestrian zone. We request that Capital Bikeshare be incorporated into the 200 block design such as at the corner of Lee St and King St. A highly visible station will be well-used by riders, discourage people from driving to Old Town, and generate significant revenue to help offset the cost of the program.

There is not enough bicycle parking in the 0-200 blocks of King St. There are only 24 spaces near the existing and proposed pedestrianized zone.

- King St & Fairfax St: 4 on narrow sidewalk
- King St & Lee St: 4 on narrow sidewalk
- King St & Strand St: 12 on narrow sidewalk\*
- N Lee St & Foundry: 4 on narrow sidewalk

*\*8 space on-street bike rack has disappeared*



We request the city incorporate six on-street bicycle corrals at each end of the pedestrian zone. Each bicycle corral should provide space for at least 12 bicycles each in U-style racks. There should be two corrals each at Fairfax St, Lee St and Union St, quadrupling the bicycle parking spaces from 24 to 96. While that may seem like a large increase, there are approximately 88 on-street car parking spaces, almost 700 off-street car parking spaces and four loading zones. Bicycle parking is much more space efficient than private vehicle parking, occupying just 6% of space of the 88 on-street car spaces use.



Incorporating Capital Bikeshare and bicycle parking aligns closely with our city's climate goals and Bicycle Master Plan. We appreciate your efforts in making our city a safer place to walk and ride a bike and thank you for your consideration of this docket item.

Sincerely,

Ken Notis,  
Chair  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

**From:** [Katie North](#)  
**To:** [TES-Traffic and Parking Board](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Traffic and Parking Board Meeting – October 28  
**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2024 12:02:19 PM

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**From:** William <wjschuyler@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2024 4:46 PM  
**To:** Katie North <katie.north@alexandriava.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Traffic and Parking Board Meeting – October 28

BTW, if it's helpful at the meeting, you can share with the board the OTCA position below:  
—we support the pilot.  
—we appreciate this thoughtful approach by the City.  
—we will be interested in the evaluation after the pilots are completed about how the different kinds of businesses on this block use the pedestrian zone to see if it continues to makes sense for a permanent change.

FYI, in case I haven't told you, I am now the VP of the OTCA.

William

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 23, 2024, at 4:03 PM, Katie North <[katie.north@alexandriava.gov](mailto:katie.north@alexandriava.gov)> wrote:

Hi William,

Thanks for reaching out on this and my apologies for not getting to OTCA sooner about the proposal. We weren't sure if the first phase would need approval from TPB until just recently, so things have been a little rushed.

However, I do have some info to share with OTCA about the proposal and opportunities for public comment.

We are proposing a temporary closure of the 200 block in two phases:

1. Phase 1 – Friday, November 22, 2024 through Monday, January 6, 2025
2. Reopen the block to traffic from January 6 – March 14
3. Phase 2 – Friday, March 14, 2025 through Sunday, January 4, 2026
4. If the Council decides to make this permanent, it will need to be reviewed again, likely in Fall 2025.

This proposal will be reviewed by the following bodies, with opportunity for public comment:

1. Monday, October 28 – Traffic and Parking Board
  1. Reviewing parking removal, traffic signal changes, changes to Parklet Requirements to waive platform for this block, and overall pilot program concept
  2. Docket is posted at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/TrafficParkingBoard>
  
2. Thursday, November 7 – Planning Commission
  1. Reviewing closure for compliance with the City’s Master Plan (Section 9.06 review)
  2. Docket will be posted next week at [https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=57](https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=57)
  
3. Tuesday, November 12 – City Council Legislative meeting (no public comment)
  1. Introducing ordinance to close the block temporarily in two phases
  2. Docket will be posted November 6 at [https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=57](https://alexandria.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=57)

4. Saturday, November 16 – City Council Public Hearing

1. Taking action on ordinance to close the block starting November 22  
If OTCA has ideas for the block, please send them our way. I can share with TPB, Planning Commission, and Council if necessary. This first phase, will mainly be just closing the block and small activation, but there are opportunities to look at other improvements with the phase starting in the spring. We’ll also be looking for feedback during that period to determine if the closure should become permanent.

I hope this provides a little more information and again, I’m sorry I didn’t get in touch with you sooner on this. happy to chat more about it if you like though.

Thanks,  
Katie

**Katie North, AICP**  
Division Chief – Mobility Services  
703.746.4139

**From:** [Jean Bunton](#)  
**To:** [Sheila McGraw](#)  
**Cc:** [Jean Marie Bunton](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Concerns re closure of 200 block of King Street  
**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2024 1:58:50 PM

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Oct. 28, 2024

Dear Ms. McGraw,

Thank you for your efforts to manage parking and traffic, especially in the heart of Historic Old Town. No shortage of issues cross your desk, I am certain. I write out of an abundance of concern, as a resident of the once bucolic 100 block of South Fairfax Street, on which I have lived for 20 years.

Here are a few of my questions/ concerns:

- Closure of the 200 block of King Street will compound the cumulative impact residents (and businesses) already feel on this block of South Fairfax, as a result of nearby parklets (including South Royal), and the closing of the 100 block of King, which already has pushed a preponderance of traffic to South Fairfax and Prince Streets. How will we slow down speedy drivers? (There are some real lead foots!) And how will we deal with the volume? Where will we park? How will we take care of pedestrians (mostly neighbors (and their dogs) at cross walks? I've seen too many close calls.
- Elimination of 17 additional spaces from the 200 block (on top of all those already lost from the 100 block of King) will not change the human nature of visitors to park on the street rather than Market Square. Finding Street parking is like winning the lottery. The city's attempt to mitigate this recently by raising prices and putting up helpful signs for cheaper parking in the city garage went unrequited on my block of South Fairfax and Prince. How will you encourage/incentivize visitors to park in Market Square?
- What will happen when Market Square is under renovation for two years? How will this impact traffic and parking around City Hall?
- The Kilwin's Semi delivery truck parks idling in front of the Old Shoe Hive now children's clothing store every Tuesdays for 45 minutes to unload its payload with a hand truck to cart to the store in the 200 block. It often blocks open spaces, and sometimes blocks in cars preventing them from leaving if they wished. (And damaged overhead tree limbs in the process). More than once, it has cause a two-way traffic meltdown on South Fairfax, when cars try to drive around it only face one or more coming head on. Gridlock ensues. (I have written to parking and sent photos of this several times. I always receive a polite and patient reply, but the practice

continues. I'm sure it's not the driver's idea of a good time either. This is but one delivery truck. How will we deal with all of the delivery trucks who deliver to the restaurants and businesses and just double park on South Fairfax? I have gotten used to having to straighten all the pictures in my house – the vibration from the idling Kulwin's truck causes them all to swim.

- A number of Airbnb's have popped up recently – including one in the 300 block of Prince. The owners offer the amenity of free street parking by permit to their guests. Yet, they are not paying for street parking. Sometimes more than one rental tenant car parks on the street, taking away already severely limited parking in front of residences on that block. They are not paying the meter. They are not resident guests. How will the city manage for those instances when more than one visitor is allowed to park at a rental and not pay the city?
- Some visitors already disobey or ignore restricted parking areas, such as the one in front of the fire department on Prince. Just this past weekend the weather was glorious and two cars parked illegally across from the fire station in the turn radius of the fire truck. Cars also park in front of the fire plug at the corner of Prince and South Fairfax. Are there efforts to step up traffic enforcement with the closure of the 200 block of King? I have witnessed some highly inventive parking – not at all smart or good. In sum, they have no remorse, or are willing to play the odds of getting a ticket they might not pay.
- Will the city consider please resident only parking for our area, even if only for certain times of the day? I have often had to drive for 15 minutes to find a space (it's that competitive) and I have had to resort to parking in Market Square, which is not your intent or my definition of joy, though I am happy to have it as an ace up my sleeve.
- Will the city please consider painting back the parking space lines that once were on the street prior to repaving so that people park in proper spots without trying to be 10 pounds in a five-pound bag?
- Can you eliminate scooters while you are at it?

Alexandria is wonderful; thank you for helping to make it better for the residents. For the reasons above, I am deeply concerned about the cumulative impact of closing the 200 block of King Street combined with all the other challenges. At present, its closure will take away more than it gives in return.

My sincere thanks for your efforts on behalf of all of us. I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the ongoing observations of traffic and parking in my block.

Atb,

Jeannie Bunton

135 South Fairfax Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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