

City of Alexandria Pedestrian and Bicycle Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
9 September 2008
Durant Center
(1605 Cameron Street)

Attendees

Dick Schaffer, Carrie Fesperman, Bill Pugh, Leah Metzler, Scott Newsham, Ruth Reeder, Jerry King, Stacy Langsdale, Yon Lambert (City Staff/Ped and Bike Program).

Below is a summary of the City of Alexandria's Pedestrian and Bicycle Citizen's Group meeting conducted on 9 September 2008.

Executive Summary: The primary meeting topics included existing and new project updates, Key Upcoming Events and a discussion of volunteer opportunities. More information and continual updates may be found on the City of Alexandria's Local Motion website under the Bike & Walk tab. Visit >> www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion

The meeting began at 7:15 pm and concluded at 9 pm

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Review May minutes

A review of the May meeting minutes was tabled until November.

3. Brief Updates

The following Existing Projects were discussed:

1. A project is beginning to hold a design competition for a pedestrian-bicycle bridge across Four Mile Run from Commonwealth Ave to S. Eads Street in Arlington. More information about the project is available here >> <http://www.novaregion.org/index.asp?NID=214>
2. The proposed Chambliss Crossing of Holmes Run Project RFP is one the street and the City expects to award the bid by mid fall. Design and construction for this project has been funded by a \$750,000 state grant.
3. The Tarleton Trail maintenance and construction project is expected to begin in spring 2009. A design consultant has been retained for the Tarleton Trail and community meetings are scheduled for fall.
4. The proposed repaving of the trail on Eisenhower Avenue was discussed. This project is still planned to be completed by fall. The Eisenhower Ave Shared Use Path (Phase 1B, trail only) is out to bid and bids are expected back this fall. The Eisenhower Ave Shared Use Path (Phase 1A, underpass and trail) is at 50% design and moving forward. Initial cost estimates for the underpass are more than the project grant. Additional funding may be required to complete this project.
5. The City has a signed administrative agreement for a joint project with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission for improvements to the Mount Vernon Trail on E. Abingdon Drive near Slater's Lane. This longtime safety improvement project was

identified in the 1998 bike plan and has been funded with a \$250,000 safety improvement.

6. The Woodrow Wilson Bridge Web site is now offering a pedestrian/bike path timeline, detailing the trails and paths affected by the construction of the new bridge. More information is available here >> www.wilsonbridge.com
7. Mount Vernon Community School has been awarded a Kaiser Foundation grant to participate in the Safe Routes to School program. The city's program is moving forward and more schools are expected to participate in 2009. More information is available here >> <http://www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion/info/default.aspx?id=11552>
8. The city has received a \$1.2 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration to build more than 1 mile of sidewalks in areas where pedestrian access to transit improvements are needed.
9. The city's bikeways map has been updated, reprinted and is available on-line here >> <http://www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion/info/default.aspx?id=11546>
10. The City's goal is to install/re-mark approximately 6 lane miles of bicycle lanes or sharrows this year on the following streets: Monticello Boulevard, Old Dominion Boulevard, Pickett Street, Taney Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue and Kenwood Avenue. Additional information will be provided in November.
11. The city is installing an experimental pedestrian signal (also known as a HAWK signal) which may be the first of its kind in the Metropolitan Washington area. The signal is designed to provide protection for pedestrians at mid-block crossings on multi-lane roadways. More information will be available soon.

4. New Projects, Notices & Closures

The following new projects were discussed:

1. The City discussed the Local Motion Bicycle Ambassador program - a partnership between the City, Washington Area Bicycle Association and National Park Service. This year's Ambassador program focused on summer events (June through September) with middle school students from Francis Hammond and George Washington Middle Schools. Ambassadors were "volunteers" and managed by paid-staff hired by WABA. Their goal at each event was to provide bicycle related handouts and literature to encourage people to travel through the City by bicycle. The volunteers were eligible for incentive items such as gift cards and iPods based on the number of hours they log at events through the summer. The goal is for the program to grow to include Local Motion Transit Ambassadors. More information is available at www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion
2. The City provided bicycle valet parking at both the Arlington & Alexandria Community Bike Ride and the Red Cross Waterfront Festival in 2008, where we parked over 160 bicycles at the two-day event. This was a success and plans are being made to provide valet parking for at least two events in 2009.
3. Alexandria and Arlington are working together on an application for Active Transportation funding in the next highway reauthorization bill. There is more information about this program available here >> <http://www.railstotrails.org/whatwedo/trailadvocacy/ATFA/index.html>
4. Alexandria plans to submit a Bicycle Friendly Community application in spring 2009 for the Spin City 2009 campaign. A subcommittee will be established to work on this project.

Notices, closures & street maintenance projects

The Eisenhower Avenue trail will be closed for a brief period this fall to allow for resurfacing. Additionally, the Clermont Connector will be closed overnight for a period this fall to allow for construction on the Beltway. More information will be available for both here >> www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion

5. Key Upcoming Events

The following events are planned this fall:

- * Car Free Day (September 22)
- * Confident City Cycling classes (September 25 and November 1)
- * Walk to School Day (September 25 and October 8)
- * Art on the Avenue with the Bicycle Ambassadors (October 8)
- * Heritage Trail Ride (October 25)
- * Lights for Bikes (October 30)

6. Public Input/Q&A

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm