

**City of Alexandria  
Pedestrian and Bicycle Citizens Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
5 May 2008  
Durant Center  
(1605 Cameron Street)**

**Attendees**

Cheryl St. Amant, Jerry W., Sean Crumley, Jerry King, Bruce Dwyer, 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 5 May 2008.

**Executive Summary:** This meeting began with a discussion of a memorial to Ellen Pickering and included a review of the March minutes which focused on traffic calming. The primary meeting topics included the Bicycle Ambassador program, existing and new project updates (particularly the city's wayfinding program) and a call for volunteers for Bike to Work Day and the Arlington & Alexandria Community Bike Ride. 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](http://www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion)

The meeting began at 7 pm and concluded at 9:10 pm

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting began with a discussion of the passing of Ellen Pickering, a former Alexandria city councilwoman and a founder of the Mount Vernon Trail. The group agreed that a memorial to Ellen would be important and agreed to continue the discussion at the June BikeWalk Alexandria meeting. A possible approach may be to work with City Council and the City Manager's office to provide suggestions and/or recommendations from the group that is now the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

**2. Review March minutes**

A review of the March meeting minutes included another discussion about traffic calming. The attendees feel that the City must clearly state its policy on how it plans to accommodate bicyclists in future traffic calming projects.

Suggestions include:

- Assurances that “sharrows” or “Bicyclist May Use Full Lane” signs will be included in all traffic calming projects that include roadway narrowing devices (such as bulb-outs), particularly at mid-block crossings
- Assurances that the City will investigate new designs that provide safer accommodation of bicyclists when bulb outs or “chokers” are considered
- Assurances that bulb outs will never extend more than 6’ into the roadway

The review of March meeting minutes also included a call for consideration of lockers for all future on- and off-street bicycle parking projects.

### **3. Brief Updates**

This agenda item began with a brief overview of the City’s new Local Motion Bicycle Ambassador program, which will be a partnership between the City, Washington Area Bicycle Association and National Park Service. This year’s Ambassador program will be focused on summer events (June through September) and will be a pilot project. The Ambassadors will be middle school students from Francis Hammond and George Washington Middle Schools who will attend up to 15 events over the course of the summer. Ambassadors will be “volunteers” and will be managed by paid-staff hired by WABA. Their goal at each event will be to provide bicycle related handouts and literature to encourage people to travel through the City by bicycle. The volunteers will be 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. The pilot program will also include an informal agreement with the National Park Service to exchange attendance at events by city Ambassadors and NPS Mount Vernon Trail “patrollers.” More information is available at [www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion](http://www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion)

The Street Smart program in March was a success with over 269 citations issued, primarily to drivers. Approximately 30 warnings were issued to pedestrians and bicyclists. The Alexandria Police Department set up on April 25 on South Royal Street in Old Town to distribute safety information, flyers and bicycle maps during the AM commuter rush.

The following Existing Projects were discussed:

1. The proposed Chambliss Crossing of Holmes Run Project RFP for design and engineering will go out this summer with the goal of retaining a firm by late summer with design to begin in the fall. Design and construction for this project has been funded by a \$750,000 state grant.
2. The Eisenhower Ave Shared Use Path (Phase 1B, trail only) will be out to bid this summer.
3. 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.

4. The proposed repaving of the trail on Eisenhower Avenue was discussed. The group feels that while the repaving is badly needed, the proposed cost (\$130,000) may require repaving a smaller section or spreading the funding out of other sections of Holmes Run. The group would like the City to consider whether sections of Holmes Run can be scored to address root damage even if the trail cannot be fully paved.
5. A design consultant has been retained for the Tarleton Trail and a public meeting may be scheduled in June or July.
6. The work on Four Mile Run (Commonwealth to Rte 1) is substantially complete. The contractor is planning to complete the trail and connection to Commonwealth Ave by May 23.
7. The City Council will consider construction of an experimental pedestrian signal (also known as a HAWK signal) at its Tuesday, May 13 meeting. It is believed this signal will 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.
8. Intersections recently improved (or proposed) for pedestrian accessibility and ped-bike safety include:
  - a. King Street at Quaker Lane
  - b. Mt. Ida at Commonwealth Ave (this project is not complete and also includes a new traffic signal with countdown timers)
  - c. Old Dominion at Four Mile Road (sidewalks and curb ramps)
  - d. Mount Vernon Trail at Canal Center Plaza, Madison, Montgomery and Pendleton Street
  - e. Seminary and Pickett (proposed curb radius reduction)
  - f. Seminary and Kenmore (proposed curb radius reduction)
9. Sidewalk projects slated to begin this summer include:
  - a. Cambridge Drive
  - b. Pegram and Pickett

The review of existing projects also included a discussion of the City's wayfinding program. It was emphasized that the City's wayfinding committee ([www.alexandriava.gov/wayfinding](http://www.alexandriava.gov/wayfinding)) is seeking input from citizens - especially pedestrians and bicyclists. The committee needs input on the following items of importance:

- Better defining the Mount Vernon Trail through Old Town
- Coordinating with the National Park Service for interpretive signage at Jones Point Park (This will also include proposed new kiosks on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.)
- Determining the process for better signing of bike shops and other locations off the Mount Vernon Trail
- Making use of the new book on walking and biking the Heritage Trail

It was emphasized that those interested in better signing for bike routes should attend the Community Meeting on Thursday, May 29 from 7 to 9 pm at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, North Lodge Meeting Room (101 Callahan Drive).

The following on-street bikeway projects are in the design phase: Pickett Street (bike lanes), Yale Drive (bike lanes and crosswalks), Braddock Road (climbing lane), Commonwealth Ave (bike lanes and bike boxes), Summit (share the road signs).

The Spin City 2009 update focused on addition of new bicycle parking (approximately 30 racks (60 spaces) added by City crews) and over 270 racks included since January 2006 as part of proposed new development projects.

#### **4. Notices, closures & street maintenance projects**

The Wilkes Street Tunnel is now open. It was asked whether a stop sign could be considered for the tunnel exit at Royal Street.

#### **5. Key Upcoming Events**

Volunteers are needed for the following events:

- \* Bike to Work Day on May 16
- \* Arlington & Alexandria Community Bike Ride on June 7

#### **6. 2008 Bikeways Map focus session**

The attendees conducted a thorough review of the proposed updates to the City's bikeways map with the following changes/edit proposed:

- Alignment, access and future paths at Monroe Avenue bridge must be shown
- Continue shared use path on Duke Street from new flyover to N Pickett St. Remove S Pickett Street between Duke Street and Edsall Road. Leave S. Pickett Street as an on-street bikeway from Van Dorn to the west
- Leave King Street as an on-street bikeway
- Show on-street bikeway in service road at Menokin and access to Fairlington
- Suggestion to alter coverside text for "On Street Bikeway" and "Off Street Bikeway" so that text references are consistent and color scheme is coordinated
- Change date on bottom right of map

#### **7. Other business**

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm