

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2014

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: SANDRA MARKS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 5 – PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

ISSUE: Provide an update to the Transportation Commission of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and Complete Streets Design Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the following update.

BACKGROUND: The City is conducting an update of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, and development of the Complete Streets Design Guidelines, which will be completed in late 2015. The City completed both the Transportation Master Plan, and a Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan in 2008 which is data rich and serves as an implementation tool for the Transportation Master Plan.

The purpose of this update to the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and development of a Complete Streets Design Guidelines will be to:

- Develop a non-motorized system that addresses the needs of all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles, and transit riders) and is consistent with the Transportation Master Plan that encourages transportation options, reducing dependence on the private automobile;
- Develop both a bicycle and pedestrian network and hierarchy, based on identification of major activity centers or destinations (including existing and projected development and Metrorail and fixed transit stations); and
- Develop a framework for implementing non-motorized policies and projects citywide

On April 8, 2014, the Council approved a resolution to establish an Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The Advisory Committee provides recommendations during the Update of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and Complete Streets Design Guidelines planning process, including guidance on issues and needs, policy recommendations, pedestrian and bicycle networks and project recommendations.

DISCUSSION

Civic Engagement

A civic engagement plan has been prepared as part of the project, that is consistent with the principles of the City's civic engagement process known as *What's Next Alexandria*. A number of preliminary outreach tools have been used to date, including:

- Project Webpage – www.alexandriava.gov/pedbikeplan
- Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee meetings, held on June 25, October 9, and December 3, 2014.
- Public Meeting #1, held on September 30, 2014
- Online Survey, available between early August 2014 and October 31, 2014
- Online interactive crowdsourcing map, available between early August and October 31
- Project information flyers (in English and Spanish) posted at libraries, recreation centers, farmers markets, festivals, community facilities in Arlandria
- Project information posters on DASH buses (in English and Spanish)

Existing Conditions, Issues and Needs

As part of the project, an assessment of existing conditions has been completed. **Attachment 1** shows a map and summary of existing conditions.

Through the civic engagement process, including the online tools, and input from the Ad Hoc Committee, and first public meeting, the following key issues and opportunities have been identified:

Pedestrian Issues and Opportunities

- Need for targeted intersection improvements
- Need for more safe routes to schools
- Improve access for persons with disabilities
- Need connections to key destinations (Schools, parks, transit, retail)
- Safety concerns
- Address small neighborhood links / desire lines
- Improve informal connections
- Improve education for all users (bicyclists, drivers, pedestrians)
- Increase awareness of rules of the road

Bicycle Issues and Opportunities

- Need connections to key destinations (Schools, parks, transit, retail)
- Need better east-west connectivity
- Need better north-south connectivity
- Need to connect to other jurisdictions
- Safety concerns
- Improve education for all users (bicyclists, drivers, pedestrians)
- Improved enforcement of drivers and bicyclists

- Increase awareness of rules of the road
- Licensing of bicyclists
- Transitions at trail start / end points

Pedestrian and Bicycle Vision, Goals and Objectives

An important and preliminary element of the plan will be to create a vision statement, and identify goals and objectives for the Pedestrian and Bicycle chapters of the updated Master Plan. The vision, goals and objectives will provide the overall framework for the planning process, to help guide the development of networks, identify projects and policies, and develop implementation measures.

The project team is in the process of developing the vision, goals and objectives based on input from the Ad Hoc Committee, public, and other organizations such BPAC. For both the pedestrian and bicycle chapters, goals will focus on: engineering, education, encouragement and safety. Specific performance measures tied to the goals will be used to periodically review how well the City is meeting each of the goals.

The draft vision, goals and objectives were presented to the Ad Hoc Committee at its December 3, 2014 meeting. At that time, the Committee requested additional time to review and provide comment, and staff will be bringing the vision, goals and objectives back to the Committee in February 2015. The draft vision, goals and objectives are shown in **Attachment 2**.

Complete Streets Design Guidelines

Development of the Complete Streets Design Guidelines is underway. These guidelines will provide guidance for City Staff as well as developers types of design options for new and upgraded streets throughout Alexandria. The City has hosted three internal Complete Streets Design Guideline working group meetings, which includes representatives from multiple departments including Planning and Zoning, the Health Department, Alexandria City Public Schools, Alexandria Fire Department, Transportation and Environmental Services, amongst others. The group has also been working to identify the different Street Typologies that will be used in these guidelines to provide more detailed guidance on street design for different segments of a roadway.

Attachments:

Summary of Existing Facilities

Draft Goals and Objectives