Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update
Public Meeting
September 24, 2015
Agenda

7:00   Stations
7:30   Presentation
8:30   Stations / Discussion
9:00   Adjourn
Purpose of the Meeting

• Provide an update on the project
• Present draft recommendations and strategies
• Hear from YOU about priorities regarding walking and bicycling in Alexandria
Introduce Project Team

**City of Alexandria**
- Steve Sindiong, Project Manager
- Carrie Sanders, Division Chief
- Hillary Poole, Complete Streets Program Manager

**Toole Design Group Team**
- RJ Eldridge, Consultant Project Manager
- Alia Anderson, Deputy Project Manager
- Jennifer Toole, Complete Streets Lead
- Iain Banks, Nelson Nygaard, Project Planner
Project Review
Project Objectives

• Update Pedestrian and Bicycle Chapters of Transportation Master Plan
  • Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists
  • Focus on FUTURE needs
  • Policy and program recommendations
  • Network recommendations
  • Connect key destinations
  • Expand Capital Bikeshare

• Develop Complete Streets Design Guidelines
  • Integrate design guidance (e.g. green sidewalks)
  • Incorporate range of bike/ped facilities
  • Create reference for staff, developers and community
Project Schedule

Late May 2014: **Project Launch**

June - Sept: **Existing Conditions Analysis, Public Meeting #1**

Sept - Dec: **Needs Assessment, Goals & Objectives**

Jan – June 2015: **Strategies, Network, Focus Areas**

Spring 2015: **Project Prioritization**

Summer 2015: **Implementation Strategies**

Early Fall 2015: **Public Meeting #2**

Winter 2015: **Draft Plan and Guidelines**

Spring 2016: **Completion**
How did we get here?

Past Plans and Studies

Field Work

Stakeholder Engagement

Data Analysis

Traffic Volume
Ad Hoc Committee

• 8 meetings over the past year

• Providing ongoing feedback and guidance on recommendations and strategies

• Open meetings with public comment

Ad Hoc Committee Representatives

- Transportation Commission
- Planning Commission
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Traffic & Parking Board
- Commission on Aging
- Commission on Persons with Disabilities
- Alexandria BPAC
- At Large Citizen Representation
- Design Professional
- Business Community
Civic and Stakeholder Engagement

• Public Meetings (2)
• Community Events
• Council and Commission Meetings
• Ad Hoc Advisory Committee (8 meetings)
• Technical Advisory Committee
• Online interactive map, survey and project website
Key themes from public input:

• Maintenance
• Complete Streets
• Education / Outreach
• Reduce conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists
• Need for protected bike facilities
• Access to schools and transit
1. How old are you?

1. Under 18
2. 18-24
3. 25-34
4. 35-64
5. 65 and over
2. Where in Alexandria do you live? (Or, where do you work if you are an employee, but not a resident?)

1. Old Town
2. Del Ray / Rosemont / Potomac Yard
3. Seminary Hill / Beauregard
4. West End / Landmark / Cameron Station
5. North Ridge / Arlandria
6. Taylor Run

Polling Question: TEST
Polling Question

3. What is the main reason that you walk in Alexandria?

1. I do not walk in Alexandria
2. Fitness / Fun
3. Transportation / To Get Around

- 1. I do not walk in Alexandria: 6%
- 2. Fitness / Fun: 30%
- 3. Transportation / To Get Around: 64%
4. **What type of bicyclist are you?**

1. I do not ride a bicycle
2. Interested but concerned – I prefer trails or quiet streets with limited vehicle interaction
3. Enthused and confident - I am comfortable biking on streets with moderate vehicle traffic and speeds
4. Strong and fearless – I am VERY comfortable biking in any conditions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>9%</td>
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Vision, Goals and Strategies
Vision

Goal

Objectives

Performance Measures

Strategies
Vision Statement Highlights

• Walking & bicycling are vital to health & mobility

• Streets, intersections, and trails should be safe & accessible

• Facilities should create networks that link important destinations

• Programs and policies should encourage walking for both transportation & recreation

• Programs, policies, and facilities should foster geographic & social equity for all of the City’s residents
Goals

Safety

Engineering

Encouragement

Education

vision | goals | objectives | strategies
Draft Strategies

- Strategies were developed using:
  - 2008 Transportation Master Plan
  - Ad Hoc Committee and public input
  - City staff input
  - Case Study Area field work

- Strategies are categorized by:
  - Engineering
  - Program and Policy
Changes from the 2008 Transportation Master Plan

- Emphasis on closing of sidewalk gaps, sidewalk maintenance
- Reducing walking and bicycling conflicts on sidewalks
- *Implementing* instead of *developing* design guidelines
- Focus on improving crossing conditions, including crosswalk placement and design, and removal of slip ramps
- More emphasis on trail access and safety, and Safe Routes to School
Draft Engineering Strategies

Key Topics:

1. Complete Streets Design Guidelines
2. Close sidewalk gaps
3. Expand the on-street bike network
4. Curb ramp upgrades and other ADA improvements
5. Improve crossing conditions
6. Improve access and safety for all users on trails
7. Reduce conflicts between bikes and pedestrians on sidewalks
8. Improve connectivity and access to transit and schools
Reduce conflicts between bicyclists, pedestrians and other sidewalk users

- In areas with significant pedestrian traffic, provide dedicated, on-street bicycle facilities
- Explore revisions to the City code to better address conflicts between users
Prioritize ongoing maintenance and repair of the sidewalk and bicycle network

• Promote Call-Click-Connect as a means for residents to report maintenance and safety concerns

• Improve snow removal practices on trails, prioritizing popular commuter trails
Draft Program/Policy Strategies

Key Topics:

1. Safe Routes to School
2. Reduce bike and pedestrian fatalities / Vision Zero
3. Ongoing performance measurement
4. Adequate funding and staffing to implement the plan
5. Partnerships with Alexandria Health Department, Police, Schools, and community groups
6. Citywide promotion and education on traffic safety, rights and responsibilities, and benefits of active transportation

vision  goals  objectives  strategies
Example Program/Policy Strategy

Pursue funding to oversee education and outreach for multimodal transportation safety initiatives citywide

• Pursue grants for safety campaigns, staffing and coordination
  - VA Highway Safety Office (402 Grants)
  - DMV Safety Grants
  - VA Safe Routes to School
  - Transportation Alternatives

Norfolk, VA “We Roll Together” Campaign
• Safety
• Encouragement
• Branding
• Videos
• Swag
• Billboards
• Bus ads
• Events
Pedestrian Projects
Pedestrian Case Study Areas

Case Study Areas were selected because they represent certain themes or challenges that are found throughout the City. Recommendations may apply to other similar locations.

Themes/Challenges:

- Major Barriers/Freeway Interchanges
- Schools and Neighborhoods
- Transit Access and Integration
- Neighborhood Main Streets
- Suburban Commercial Connectors
- Trail/Roadway Transitions
- Lack of connectivity around large apartment complexes/ commercial buildings
- Curb ramps/ADA upgrades
- Maintenance of sidewalks
- Sidewalk gaps and narrow sidewalks
- Conflicts between people walking and people biking
### Pedestrian Case Study Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASE STUDIES:</th>
<th>I-395 and Landmark Mall</th>
<th>Hammond Middle School Area</th>
<th>Duke Street Corridor</th>
<th>Mount Vernon Ave/ Four Mile Run</th>
<th>King Street Station</th>
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</thead>
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[Map of Pedestrian Case Study Areas]
Why Prioritize?

- Represents community values
- Lots of needs, but limited resources
- Need to make wise choices about how resources are used
- Need to communicate choices to others
- Need to build public/political support for action
- May be required for funding purposes
# Sidewalk Prioritization

**Step 1:** Identify sidewalk projects

- Focused on remaining sidewalk gaps identified in 2008 Master Plan

**Step 2:** Input data and run prioritization model

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<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1. Safety</td>
<td>• Wikimap Comments (“Barrier to walking”)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Crashes (fatalities and non-fatal collisions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Demand</td>
<td>• Population and employment density</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Future population</td>
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<td>• Pedestrian mode share</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Wikimap comments (place I walk/want to walk)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Proximity to libraries, community centers, Metro stations, parks, schools, bike share stations, bus stops</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Geography</td>
<td>• Promote projects on west side of City</td>
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Sidewalk Prioritization Results
Bicycle Projects
Bicycle Facility Groups

- Enhanced Bicycle Corridor
- Shared Roadway
- Trails

Specific designs will be determined case-by-case for future projects.
Enhanced Bicycle Corridor

Standard Bicycle Lane

Painted Bike Lanes

Advisory Bike Lane
Enhanced Bicycle Corridor

2-way Separated Bicycle Lane

1-way Separated Bicycle Lane

Buffered Bike Lanes

Sidepath
Shared Roadway

Signed Route on Shared Roadway

Shared Lane Markings

Priority Shared Lane Markings

Neighborhood Bikeway
5. Which street would you rather bike on?

1.

2.

3. No preference / Neither
5. Which street would you rather bike on?

1. [Image of street scene]

2. [Image of street scene]

Polling Question

1. 2. no preference/neither 50% 23% 27%
Polling Question

6. Which street would you rather bike on?

1. 

2. 

3. No preference / Neither
6. Which street would you rather bike on?

1. No preference/neither (23%)
2. Street 1 (71%)
3. Street 2 (6%)
7. Which street would you rather bike on?

1. 

2. 

3. No preference / Neither
7. Which street would you rather bike on?

1. 

2. 

Polling Question

1. 2. no preference/neither

66%

24%

10%
8. Which street would you rather bike on?

1. 

2. 

3. No preference / Neither
8. Which street would you rather bike on?

1. No preference/neither 27%
2. 60%
3. 13%
Draft Citywide Bicycle Network
# Bicycle/Trail Project Prioritization

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<td></td>
<td>• Crashes (fatalities and non-fatal collisions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Demand</td>
<td>• Population and employment density</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Geography</td>
<td>• Favors projects on the west side of City</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Connectivity</td>
<td>• Connection to existing bike lanes and paved trails</td>
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Trail Prioritization Results
Priority Trail Transition Improvements

1. Mt. Vernon Trail near Jones Point Park
2. Mt. Vernon Trail and Royal Street
3. Bridge across Holmes Run
4. Four Mile Run and Route 1 Intersection
5. Potomac Yard Trail near Shoppers/Barnes and Noble
6. E. Abingdon Street from Mt. Vernon to Slaters Lane
7. Mt. Vernon Trail and Canal Center Plaza Intersection
8. Potomac Yard Trail at Braddock Road Metrorail Station
Bicycle Prioritization Results

Top 10 On-Street Bike Projects

- #1
- #2
- #3
- #4
- #5
- #6
- #7
- #8
- #9
- #10

Existing and Proposed Bike Network

Future Street

Metro Station
Capital Bikeshare

• Conducted an analysis of future demand for Capital Bikeshare stations
• Recommended future station locations
9. What is your **HIGHEST** priority for walking?

1. Close sidewalk gaps and improving sidewalks.
2. Improve ADA accessibility on sidewalks and at intersections.
3. Reduce conflicts between bikes, pedestrians and other users on sidewalks.
4. Increase education and outreach programs related to walking and safety.
5. Improve the maintenance of the sidewalk network.
10. What is your **HIGHEST** priority for biking?

1. Close gaps in the existing network of bicycle lanes and shared lane markings.

2. Provide more separated bike lanes that create a buffer between bikes and vehicles.

3. Expand Capital Bikeshare throughout the City.

4. Increase education and outreach programs related to biking and safety.

5. Improve the maintenance of the bicycle network.
Wrap Up
Next Steps

**FALL 2015:** Continued public outreach

**WINTER 2016:** Public Release of Draft Plan

**SPRING 2016:** Planning Commission, Transportation Commission and Council Review for Approval
Thank You!

Questions / Discussion

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