



PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN UPDATE and COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN GUIDELINES PUBLIC MEETING #2

City of Alexandria | Department of Transportation & Environmental Services
Thursday, September 24th, 2015 | 7:00-9:00 pm
Dr. Oswald Durant Center, 1605 Cameron Street

Public Workshop Notes

On September 24th, 2015, representatives from the City of Alexandria and the consultant team were joined by approximately 40 people from Alexandria and surrounding communities at the second public meeting for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update and Complete Streets Design Guidelines Project in the Oswald Durant Center. The purpose of the meeting was to present the draft project recommendations and receive input. At this meeting, attendees had an opportunity to visit several different stations, including:

- Participate in an interactive station where they could design a multimodal street;
- Learn about the complete streets design guidelines;
- Review findings and recommendations from the pedestrian focus area assessment;
- Review the draft recommended city-wide bicycle facility and trail network, and potential bike share expansion; and
- Learn about the draft plan strategies for improving walking and bicycling.

At each station, participants were asked to provide feedback on the recommendations, and provide any additional relevant input. The project team also delivered a presentation introducing and summarizing the different elements of the plan.

Transportation Division Chief, Carrie Sanders opened the presentation and provided an overview of the evening's agenda. As part of her opening, Chief Sanders acknowledged the recent pedestrian fatality at Braddock Road at Commonwealth Avenue, and pointed out that one of the primary objectives of the new plan and design guidelines is to improve safety. The remainder of the presentation summarized the plan process, introduced the vision, goals and objectives, introduced the plan strategies, highlighted recommendations for pedestrian improvements, introduced the citywide bicycle network, and presented the draft priority pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

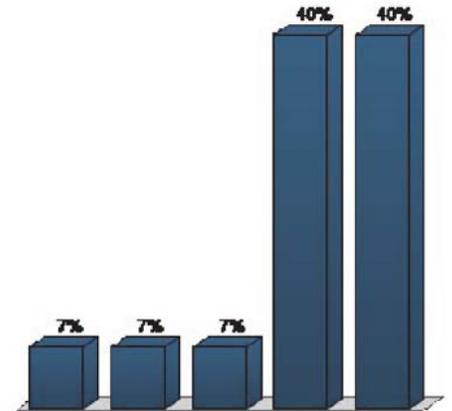
As part of the presentation, participants were asked several multiple choice questions relating to walking and bicycling in Alexandria. While the responses only represent the perspectives of those in attendance, they are useful in helping City staff and the project team get a sense of the community's opinions on key issues germane to the plan. Responses were provided by handheld "clicker" and are summarized below.

1. How Old Are You?

This question was intended as an icebreaker to familiarize participants with the polling technology, and also to get a sense of the composition of the audience. As seen in the results below, the large majority of the audience was 35 and over.

1. 1. How old are you? (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Under 18	6.67%	2
18-24	6.67%	2
25-34	6.67%	2
35-64	40%	12
65 and over	40%	12
Totals	100%	30

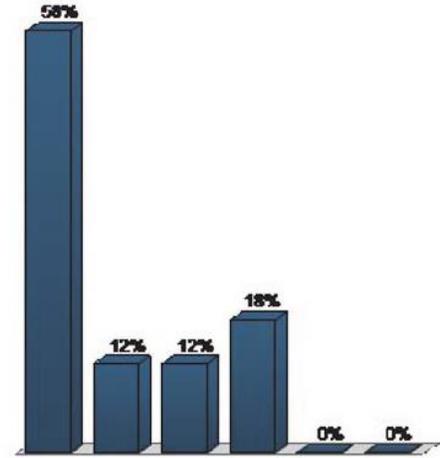


2. Where in Alexandria do you live? (or where do you work if you are an employee but not a resident?)

The intent of this question was to gain an understanding of the geographic distribution of attendees. Over half of participants were from Old Town, which is not surprising considering the meeting was held in Old Town.

2. 2. Where in Alexandria do you live? (Or, where do you work if you are an employee, but not a resident?)
(Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Old Town	57.58%	19
Del Ray / Rosemont / Potomac Yard	12.12%	4
Seminary Hill / Beauregard	12.12%	4
West End / Landmark / Cameron Station	18.18%	6
North Ridge / Arlandria	0%	0
Taylor Run	0%	0
Totals	100%	33

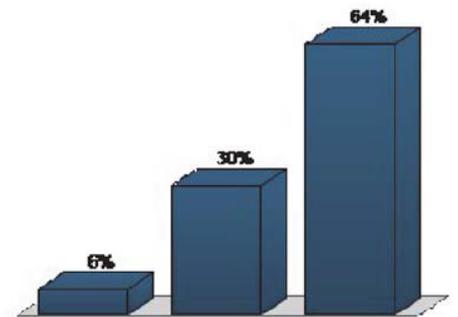


3. What is the main reason that you walk in Alexandria?

The purpose of this question is to gain an understanding of why people walk in Alexandria. The majority (nearly 64%) indicated that they walk for transportation.

3. 3. What is the main reason that you walk in Alexandria? (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
I do not walk in Alexandria	6.06%	2
Fitness / Fun	30.3%	10
Transportation / To Get Around	63.64%	21
Totals	100%	33

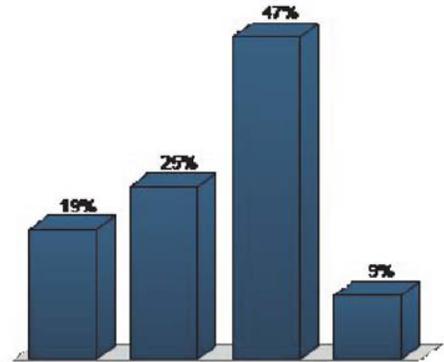


4. What type of bicyclist are you?

This question provides insights into participants’ level of comfort on a bicycle, and the conditions they prefer for bicycling. Nearly half (46.88%) indicated that they are confident cyclists, willing to bike on streets with moderate traffic and speeds. A similar number indicated they will only ride on quiet streets or trails (25%) or do not ride at all (18.75%). Less than 10% indicated that they are comfortable riding in any condition.

4.4. What type of bicyclist are you? (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
I do not ride a bicycle	18.75%	6
Interested but concerned – I prefer trails or quiet streets with limited vehicle interaction	25%	8
Enthusied and confident - I am comfortable biking on streets with moderate vehicle traffic and speeds	46.88%	15
Strong and fearless – I am VERY comfortable biking in any conditions	9.38%	3
Totals	100%	32



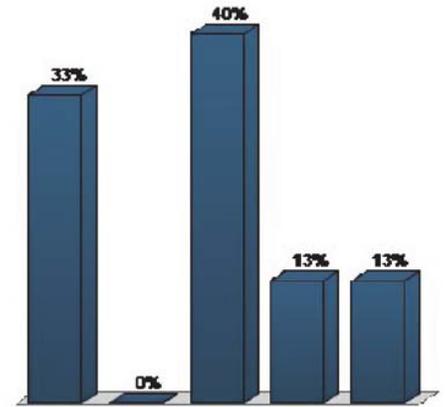
The next several questions provided participants with a choice of different types of facilities for bicycling (e.g. in a bike lane vs. in roadway biking) to ascertain respondents’ comfort with different types of facilities. The findings from this will help Alexandria staff select suitable facility treatments for different bicycle improvement projects around the City.

9. What is your HIGHEST priority for walking?

This question provides participants the opportunity indicate their top priority for walking in Alexandria. By far, the top candidates were reducing conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians on sidewalks (40%) and closing sidewalk gaps (33%).

9.9. What is your HIGHEST priority for walking? (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Close sidewalk gaps and improving sidewalks.	33.33%	10
Improve ADA accessibility on sidewalks and at intersections.	0%	0
Reduce conflicts between bikes, pedestrians and other users on sidewalks.	40%	12
Increase education and outreach programs related to walking and safety.	13.33%	4
Improve the maintenance of the sidewalk network.	13.33%	4
Totals	100%	30

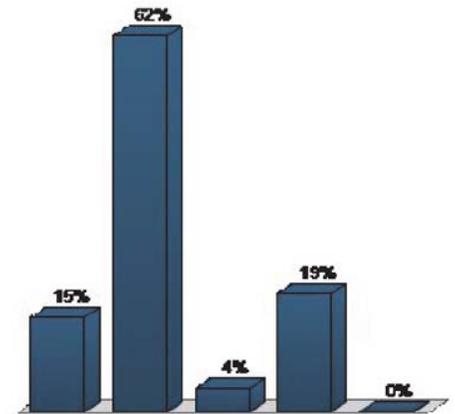


10. What is your HIGHEST priority for bicycling?

The last question focused on participants’ top priorities to support bicycling in Alexandria. Development of more separated bicycle lanes garnered the most significant response (over 60%) followed by increased education related to biking safety (19%) and closing gaps in the existing bicycle network (15%).

10. 10. What is your HIGHEST priority for biking? (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Close gaps in the existing network of bicycle lanes and shared lane markings.	15.38%	4
Provide more separated bike lanes that create a buffer between bikes and vehicles.	61.54%	16
Expand Capital Bikeshare throughout the City.	3.85%	1
Increase education and outreach programs related to biking and safety.	19.23%	5
Improve the maintenance of the bicycle network.	0%	0
Totals	100%	26



In the last portion of the presentation section of meeting, participants were given some time to ask questions to City and the consultant team about the project. Major themes during the question and answer period included pedestrian safety, promoting safer bicycling behaviors, and reducing motor vehicle speeds.

Following the presentation, workshop participants had more time to visit the stations and learn more about the different plan elements.