

Arlington Bike Advisory Committee
1 February 2016 Meeting
2100 Clarendon Blvd. Arlington, VA 22201

Gillian Burgess, Megan Jones, Cory Bilton, Mark Blacknell, Ed Blanton, Dana Bres, Eric Goodman, Dwight Hlustick, Steve Offutt, Cynthia Palmer, Tim Rosato, Chris Slatt, Randy Swart

Ken Dennis (ACPD), David Goodman, Larry Fillar, Tim Kelley, David Patton, Kevin Stalica

Guests

Amit Sidhaye, Andy Anton, Andy Bakker (VeloCity), Bayley Vanderpoel (VeloCity), Ray Warren

Arlington County Police Department (Lt Dennis) –

Introduced the final draft of the training tool, “Enforcing Bicycle Traffic Laws” that will accompany an in-person training effort to help the police understand the laws. This was developed with the Commonwealth’s Attorney. They will also meet with the judges as well. Training for the officers would begin in a couple of weeks. Lt Dennis indicated that they would emphasize the issue of right of way. If the ABAC has input, David Goodman will be consolidating them to highlight in the training.

FMR Trail Closure (David Goodman)

After the input from the BAC, the plan has been revised to include the water filled jersey barriers in the traffic lanes on the bridge over Four Mile Run. The City of Alexandria is anticipating paving the diagonal trail at Route 1. David Goodman said that while they might dress up some portions of the sidewalk along Glebe but they didn’t have enough money to replace the sidewalk. Kevin Stalica said that the access road for the project will be about where Ives Street is located. David Goodman said that the connection between the FMR Trail. There was much discussion about the routes and concern was that the routes around Eads and along Route 1.

Custis Repair (Kevin Stalica)

The repair of the Custis trail near the bridge to nowhere was reviewed by a team from Arlington County. They looked at the dip along the Custis (the two retaining walls are VDOT structures). Funding is available for a study to identify the problem and to develop an estimate of the work. Kevin indicated that he may be able to do a temporary repair depending on how long the study will take. The BAC asked if there could be some sort of signage to warn cyclists. Kevin indicated he could do some signs.

Pershing Drive

The Pershing Drive project will have some new signals (Pershing Drive Complete Streets Project). The plans show some solid medians that might be installed. A motion was made and passed to advocate for a protected bike lane. David Goodman said that there wasn't enough space on Pershing for bike lanes.

Snow Clearing

The BAC asked the County to consider the end of Eads as a through street connecting Eads to FMR. There seemed to be some concern about the protected bike lanes on Eads getting cleared. The stretch of Eads from the Four Mile Run trail to Glebe (about 0.1 miles including the portion between the cul de sac and the trail)

There was discussion of the need for enforcement for snow clearing.

Kevin Stalica said that Arlington County cannot meet its own snow ordinance.

Chris Slatt indicated that there would be an Arlington County post mortem of the snow response effort that would be open to the public.

A number of people mentioned the need for spot clearing where plows blocked sidewalks, crosswalks or trails when clearing the roads.

Neighborhood Complete Streets (Chris Slatt)

Went to the Board with support from some commissions but at the Board meeting, eight residents railed against the guidelines. While the Board passed the guidelines, they put a three year moratorium on any vertical feature (speed bumps, etc). The Guidelines should be available because there is a press release on the county website.

Traffic Signals (Amit Sidhaye)

Amit is the new (since Dec 2015) traffic signals manager in DES. He has been with Arlington County for about eight years. They do a signal count for every signalized intersection in Arlington County every three years. In these counts, they count all traffic in the intersection, including bikes and peds. They are testing some technology for the bus lanes on Crystal Drive that would give some priority for buses at signals. They are following a WMATA pilot that looks at smart intersections. The signals team is using a wide variety of tools to permit the signals to detect cyclists. They are shifting the detection methods from video or pavement loops to FLIR systems. With the FLIR system, the instrumentation permits the signals to differentiate between bikes and cars.

Gillian Burgess offered to send a list of the signal issues that had been identified.

Chris Slatt suggested that there were a number of signals that just didn't work for cyclists.

Amit said that they were testing a location at Vermont and Glebe Road.

Staff Updates

Arlington Hall West Park (Kevin Stalica) – There is a trail between S Quincy and 6th Street South. The trail is on State Department property and the State Dept is looking to expand and secure the area, which will close that trail. Kevin said that State was looking for community impact and suggestions to mitigate the impact of the trail loss. The BAC seemed to think that improvements on the trail on the south side of Route 50 might mitigate the impacts.

Stop Sign at Lucky – There was extended discussion of the use of stop signs on trails in Arlington County. The current Virginia law says that stop signs can be installed on trails if the jurisdiction passes an ordinance. Kevin indicated that the Community Association asked for a trail stop sign and one was approved and installed. The ABAC asked Kevin to determine who approved the stop sign on the trail at that location. Kevin indicated that the stop sign seemed to be a most reasonable solution. Concern was expressed that the stop sign suggests to motorists that they enjoy some primacy at a trail crossing that isn't actually true and this may place cyclists and pedestrians at increased risk.