

Minutes of Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting of 10 December 2020

The Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) met, virtually, on 10 December 2020 to review issues affecting our great community.

1. The Chair offered updates on removal of the obsolete foundation (trip hazard) adjacent to the Shirlington pedestrian overpass. The protruding pipes and mounting studs were recently cut flush with the foundation, in response to a TLUC request.
2. The abandoned orange hazard sign and stand on the common elements near the northeast corner of Gunston and Martha Custis remain, although the VDOT contractor has been asked to remove the apparatus ASAP.
3. The Chair noted the streetlight on the northeast corner of Valley and Gunston (near Vola Lawson memorial) has been out for several months. Dominion has subsequently marked the pole with a blue band, indicating repair is planned.
4. At the ATC (DASH) Board of Directors meeting the previous evening, a new numbering system for all DASH routes (now called "lines") that will take effect 27 June 2021 as part of the Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) program (now referred to as the "New DASH Network"). Instead of "AT" or "N" prefixed routes, the new lines will be numerical. Those operating 7 days a week will be numbered between 30 and 39 whereas those operating limited hours will be in the 100 series. AT3 and AT4 will therefore become 103 and 104 respectively, while the modified AT9 will be transformed into line 36. DASH plans public outreach and hearings in the March/April timeframe.
5. The ATC Board deferred a decision on when to reinstate fare collection on DASH buses, citing delays in delivery of Plexiglas driver barriers and other factors. Metrobus and ART have announced fare collection will resume on January 3rd, whereas other regional transit providers have not yet reached a firm decision, to the best of our knowledge.
6. A brief discussion centered around the new green recycling dumpster at the Maintenance Yard. While the slotted openings force residents to "break down" boxes before inserting, there has been no guidance provided as to the proper disposition of recyclables that cannot be folded, e.g. large laundry detergent and bleach bottles, plastic flowerpots, etc. Observation indicates that some residents are leaving such items on the ground adjacent to the dumpsters. Management response to a request for clarification is still pending.
7. The Chair received reassurances from VDOT that they were "diligently" working to restore lights along I-395 and around the Shirlington Circle that have been out for months if not years. It was reported that all the lights on the pedestrian overpass were out as well.

Traditionally, the December TLUC meeting is a festive occasion as we enjoy great camaraderie and look forward to another year of forward progress. Unfortunately, 2020 has been a most difficult year, but the perseverance and willingness to carry on our important business through it all is indeed noteworthy and much appreciated. With best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season, our first meeting of 2021 will be on Thursday January 14th at 7PM. Details will follow.

Stay safe during the holidays.

Best regards,
Bob Gronenberg
TLUC Chair