

## Minutes of Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) Meeting of 12 March 2020

The TLUC convened on the evening of 12 March for its monthly meeting. In lieu of traditional conference table seating, the five members present opted for a more distributed seating arrangement, also known as “social distancing.”

Topics discussed included:

1. Sound Walls – The Chair reported seeing two unsolicited complimentary messages from residents regarding sound wall F2 (adjacent to Quaker Lane). The etched pattern on the community-facing side of the wall, as well as the minimal tree impact and the respectful nature of the workforce were cited as positives.
2. Shirlington Interchange Improvement Study. VDOT released the exhaustive final study report last month and it is now for the local jurisdictions to compete for over \$9 million in funding from the Commonwealth to allow construction to begin. Parkfairfax hosted a meeting with representatives from Fairlington, Parc East, Shirlington and Green Valley on 10 March to brainstorm the way ahead. While it is generally recognized that the current design of the Shirlington Circle is rife with merging and lane changing hazards, improvements will require a significant investment of time and funding to realize. As one of the most affected communities, Parkfairfax will play a major role in working with the City of Alexandria and surrounding jurisdictions to bring this long-overdue effort to fruition.
3. The WMATA FY21 proposed budget impact on Metrobus 7Y and 22A service was discussed. Fairlington, with TLUC engagement, has requested the WMATA defer changes to the aforementioned routes until there can be collaborative discussions with affected residents and consideration of alternate approaches. Unfortunately, while many Parkfairfax residents are passionate about the 22A, ridership is dismal, and WMATA’s proposal to eliminate this route was quite predictable. Options for off-peak service involving other Metrobus routes, ART or DASH also need to be explored. As previously reported, DASH peak hour service between Parkfairfax and the Pentagon via AT3 and AT4 routes (possibly renumbered) will continue well into the future. Pending service changes on DASH and Metrobus routes due to the coronavirus are expected to be on a temporary basis.
4. There is concern among some in the community regarding trucks and schools buses on our streets. These are two separate issues. School buses are permitted, without restriction, on residential streets. Speed limit infractions should be reported to the Police and ACPS (or relevant school authority) with as much specificity as possible. A decades old regulation, verified as being still in effect, prohibits “through trucks” from all streets within the City of Alexandria except Routes 1, ,7, 236 and 241. The key word here is “through.” Trucks that enter the City to make deliveries within are not through trucks. Trucks that originate in Alexandria and pass through to enter another jurisdiction are likewise not through trucks. Only trucks which enter and exit the City en route to their final destination outside the City are through trucks. It was agreed that signage is needed at the three major entry points, namely W. Glebe Rd and Valley Dr., Gunston Rd and Martha Custis (Shirlington Circle), and Quaker Lane and Preston Rd. Even with signage enforcement will be spotty at best, as visually determining which trucks are through trucks will be nearly impossible. Nevertheless, TLUC members will be pursuing this with the City’s Traffic Chief.
5. There was unanimous agreement the so-called “zebra crossings” offer superior visibility and should be considered for all Parkfairfax intersections. Zebra crossing involve alternating white and black stripes in lieu of parallel lines. Four-way stop intersection are particularly dangerous for pedestrians as drivers must focus on three other vehicles in determining right-of-way, leaving pedestrians out of the equation. The TLUC will pursue zebra crossings to enhance safety consistent with the City’s Vision Zero goals.
6. As instructed, the TLUC will suspend all face-to-face meetings until further notice.

Bob Gronenberg, Chair

Parkfairfax Transportation & Land Use Committee