

Minutes of Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting of 13 January 2022

The TLUC began 2022 on a high note by welcoming three new members along with four current members and looks forward to meeting an additional two prospective members at our February meeting. While an in-person format would have been preferable, each member was afforded a few minutes for self-introduction during the “virtual” meeting.

Per the agenda provided, the following topics were discussed:

1. Electric Vehicle EV Charging Stations for Parkfairfax. It was noted that approximately 350 residents participated in an online survey with about 65% indicating they either owned an EV, plan to purchase an EV in the foreseeable future or would consider acquiring an EV based upon the availability of charging stations. Of the interested residents, the overwhelming majority indicated EV charging stations in Parkfairfax would be their primary charging resource. A detailed presentation, including final survey results, will be presented at the Board of Directors meeting on January 19th and all are encouraged to attend, in-person or via Zoom.
2. The Chair explained that the property-wide lighting survey, originally planned to be conducted last year will be rescheduled to this spring and several have already volunteered to participate. The survey is aimed at balancing the lighting in common-element areas to improve safety, without creating “light pollution” or a stadium-like effect. More details on the organization of this event will be forthcoming.
3. A brief discussion of transit-related matters ensued including our unprecedented high frequency fare-FREE bus network, and the current challenges posed by staffing shortages along with the layup of 748 Metrorail 7000 series rails for an additional next 90 days, if not longer. While most DASH routes have recovered to near pre-pandemic levels, ridership on Parkfairfax routes remains dismal, and at risk of service reductions.
4. Confirming the information provided on page 4 of the January 2022 Parkfairfax Forum, the probability of a Capital Bikeshare station for Parkfairfax was generally viewed as a forward-looking amenity. As the intended location is on common-element property, the City has prepared a contract which, as of this writing, is under review by Parkfairfax counsel. Once approved it is expected to be at least six month before the station, in the parking area leading to building 401, will be operational.
5. The Chair explained recent contact with VDOT regarding chronic lighting outages along I-395, the Shirlington Circle and the pedestrian overpass. A campaign in December 2020 resulted in many, but not all, lights being restored with numerous outages reoccurring.
6. The City of Alexandria has confirmed plans to replace parallel lines with high-vis “zebra” crosswalks at the Martha Custis/Preston and Martha Custis/Gunston intersections this spring or summer.

7. Outreach with Shirlington and Fairlington is underway to encourage Arlington County to work with Alexandria on submitting a request for SmartScale funding to implement the Shirlington Circle improvement project based on the study completed and published two years ago. The biennial submission deadline for over \$11 million to fund this project is April 1st 2022. More pressure will be applied in the interim.

The next meeting of the TLUC will be Thursday, February 10th at 7PM. A reminder and agenda will be provided.

A big thank you to all who participated, and I look forward to “seeing” you again next month.

Best regards,

Bob Gronenberg
TLUC Committee Chair