

The July meeting of the Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee met on 11 July 2019 in the Board Room with several members present.

1. The Chair has been working with City and VDOT officials since June 10th seeking ways to alleviate morning traffic backups in Parkfairfax caused by lane closures to permit construction of sound wall F1 in the vicinity of the I-395 northbound onramp over a six month period. Despite optimization of the ramp metering signal, delays persisted with the closure of the right lane on Gunston Rd into the Shirlington Circle the likely culprit. As Gunston Road is a City street, the TLUC chair invited the Transportation Chief, Bob Garbacz to meet on the overpass to further assess the situation. After initial resistance, VDOT finally yielded to TLUC and City pressure on 11 July and removed the orange barrels, reopening both lanes to traffic. It is not certain that traffic will fully return to “normal” given the narrowing of the onramp itself, but reopening the lane on Gunston allows for segregation of traffic, with I-395 northbound vehicles using the right lane and everyone else, including buses, using the left to access the HOV lanes and Shirlington. DASH and Metrobus have already sent notes of appreciation, and it is hoped that everyone will benefit from reduced congestion on our streets.
2. The Chair attended the 09 July meeting of the Shirlington Civic Association along with representatives from Parc East. VDOT presented a condensed version of their 12 June hybrid proposal for a safety redesign of the Shirlington Circle. The Shirlington Civic Association President intends to form a coalition consisting of Shirlington, Parkfairfax, Parc East and Fairlington to lobby for state funding to close the \$7 million (minimum) shortfall and permit this project to proceed. More details will be forthcoming.
3. Arlington County’s Transportation Chief, Richard Best, advises plans are being finalized over the next two to three months to rebuild the W. Glebe Rd. bridge over Four Mile Run. A 5 ton weight restriction was imposed last November after inspection revealed serious structural deterioration, limiting commercial traffic and a reroute of Metrobus 10B and 23A/B.
4. Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services has issued an interim report on the Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan to the “stakeholders.” The report states, inter alia, **“(t)he final draft ATV network will also be designed with a focus on peak services such as the AT-3 and AT-4 in light of the extensive public feedback that has been received.”** In fact the City received approximately 175 emails and phone calls concerning the initial ATV Plan concepts, and more than 150 of those were from Parkfairfax! The TLUC Chair will continue to work with the City and DASH as the next round of concept maps are formulated to ensure that current peak and off-peak bus service in Parkfairfax is not jeopardized.
5. Additional topics will be addressed at the next regular TLUC meeting on 8 August 2019 at 7PM when, hopefully, a “quorum” will be present.

v/r
Bob

Bob Gronenberg
Chair
Parkfairfax Transportation and
Land Use Committee