

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023, 7 P.M.
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair James Lewis, Vice Chair Ann Tucker, Annie Ebbers, Lavonda Bonnard (remote), Casey Kane, and Ashley Mihalik.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Osborne

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: T&ES – Katie North, Division Chief; Sheila McGraw, Principal Planner; Dan Scolese, Civil Engineer IV; and Max Devilliers, Urban Planner II.

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.
2. Approval of the June 26, 2023, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2023, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on:
 - King/Callahan/Russell Intersection Improvements Project
 - Bicycle Parking at Transit Project
 - Capital Bikeshare Station Maps
 - Duke Street In Motion
 - Parking Meter Replacement Project
4. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:** Carolyn Griglione spoke on the stalled crosswalk/median work on North Hampton Street at West Braddock Road. Ms. Griglione met on site with Councilmember Gaskins and again with the City Manager to discuss the delays. Both expressed their disappointment with the delays. Ms. Griglione asked if the City would also do similar work on the median extending into the crosswalk on West Braddock Road. Mr. Scolese stated he would follow up with the team working on this project and update the Board via email. Chair Lewis asked if the City is simply fixing the issue on North Hampton Street due to the complaint from Ms. Griglione or if the City is looking at the entire area holistically for other work that can be included in this project. Mr. Scolese stated that when an issue is raised by a resident to be fixed, the City often focuses on that rather looking at what other issues can be resolved in the vicinity.

BOARD ACTION: None.

CONSENT ITEMS

5. ISSUE: Traffic Control Updates – Mount Vernon Trail between Canal Center Plaza and Madison Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Scolese presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane stated that signs should read “Trail Users Do Not Stop” and that the City should add “Trail Crossing” signs as well. Chair Lewis asked what the threshold is for being eligible for a four-way stop. Mr. Scolese responded that many intersections often don’t meet the threshold for a four-way stop, especially intersections with trails like the Mount Vernon Trail. Mr. Kane asked if the bollards on the trail at each intersection will be removed, to which Mr. Scolese responded that he would ask RPCA and follow up after. Ms. Mihalik asked if the City planned on installing signage for trail users, to which Mr. Scolese responded that there were no plans to do so. Ms. Tucker asked if NOTICE was notified of this proposed change, to which Mr. Scolese said no. Ms. Tucker requested that community organizations be notified in the future even if indirectly affected. Chair Lewis asked that City staff share any results found as a result of this change. Mr. Kane asked that City staff now look at other trails intersecting with City-owned streets for similar changes.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Mary Harris requested that the Board defer this item to a future meeting until NOTICE learns more about the proposal because NOTICE was not directly notified of this proposal. Zachary DesJardins testified in support and stated that the proposed changes are recommended by the MUTCD.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to approve change the stop signs from the Mount Vernon Trail to the intersecting streets of Canal Center Plaza, Montgomery Street, and Madison Street. The motion carried unanimously.

6. ISSUE: Stop Sign Request and Parking Removal – Braddock Place and North Fayette Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Scolese presented the item to the Board. Ms. Tucker asked if all the proposed parking space removals were necessary to accomplish the goal of this proposal, to which Mr. Scolese responded yes. Ms. Mihalik asked if the new buildings in the area will have onsite parking, to which Ms. North responded yes due to minimum parking requirements stipulated by the Zoning Ordinance. Chair Lewis .

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Trevor Stafford-Walter, Adam L., and Veronica Vela all testified in opposition due to concerns about parking availability in the neighborhood and raised the issue of construction workers parking on the street without enforcement.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to approve removing two (2) parking spaces at Braddock Place and North Fayette Street and install an all-way stop at this intersection. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

7. ISSUE: Mini-roundabout Addition – Hickory Street and Kennedy Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Scolese presented the item to the Board. Ms. Tucker asked if the mini-roundabout would be accompanied by any raised infrastructure or if it would simply be white paint, to which Mr. Scolese responded that only white paint and zebra/armadillo bike lane dividers would be used, similar to the treatments on Commonwealth Avenue. Mr. Kane requested that the City use this opportunity to implement placemaking in this neighborhood and asked if staff had discussed this project with the Fire Department, to which Mr. Scolese said no. Mr. Kane suggests that the Fire Department contact the Seattle Fire Department if they have any concerns about this project due to the prevalence of mini-roundabouts there. Ms. Tucker requested that staff follow up on results of the project and any feedback from the Fire Department.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Molly Sim, resident of Warwick Village, testified in support but voiced concerns about drivers getting stuck in the snow at this intersection and wants staff to analyze if this treatment creates more problems for drivers, especially emergency vehicles. Mr. Scolese noted that the zebra/armadillo bike lane dividers would be installed at least as wide as a plow truck to avoid damage.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve reconfiguring the intersection of Hickory Street and Kennedy Street to a mini-roundabout. The motion carried unanimously.

8. ISSUE: Residential Permit Parking Restrictions – 900 Block of North Fairfax Street, 200 Block of Montgomery Street, 200 Block of Canal Center Plaza

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Chair Lewis asked that staff clarify what the development condition stated and Ms. North explained that the condition left it up to City staff to determine the best signage for the surrounding blocks and no changes were proposed nor made. Chair Lewis asked if the Department of Code Administration could enforce against the contractors' delays in signage installation, to which Ms. North responded that this is typically reviewed with the Certificate of Occupancy or As-Built inspections. Mr. Kane echoed that contractors should be held accountable for signs that are removed and then not re-installed in a timely manner. Chair Lewis stated that the City could have installed the signage internally and sent Carr Properties the bill associated with the costs of doing so. Ms. Tucker asked about the south side of the 200 block of Montgomery Street, to which Ms. North responded that staff could bring the request for changes to that side of the block at the next meeting as a consent item once the signed petition is received. Chair Lewis asked if residents of both buildings are eligible for Residential Parking Permits, to which Ms. North responded yes because parking availability didn't warrant ineligibility.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Meg Smith testified in support of adding District 9 residential permit parking restrictions on both sides of all three blocks given that MetroStage likely

won't open for another 3-5 years. Mary Harris, NOTICE, stated she was notified of the docket item only after the NOTICE meeting occurred so she could not appropriately notify the members. Ms. Harris also noted that parking availability in the neighborhood is decreasing as it continues to grow. Ms. Harris requested that City staff provide at least 30 days of notice in the future.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve adding District 9 Residential Parking Permits restrictions on the south side of the 200 block of Canal Center Plaza and the north side of the 200 block of Montgomery Street. The motion carried unanimously.

9. ISSUE: Residential Pay by Phone – 500 Block of South Lee Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Ms. Mihalik asked what the percentage of drivers parked on the block during the parking surveys were found to hold valid District 1 Residential Parking Permits. Mr. Devilliers stated that 73% of parkers had valid permits during the parking survey on July 6th while 69% of parkers had valid permits during the survey on the 7th. Mr. Kane asked if parking is permitted on the east side of the block, to which Mr. Devilliers said no. Chair Lewis asked where the nearest physical meter is located, to which Mr. Devilliers responded the Unit block of Duke Street. Ms. Tucker asked if additional meters were planned as part of the meter upgrade project going on this year, to which Ms. McGraw responded that the scope of that project did not include adding meters to blocks without existing meters, only replacing existing ones. Ms. North added that residents initially didn't support having physical meters on residential blocks although institutions such as churches could request them. Chair Lewis and Ms. Ebbers echoed their support for additional physical meters due to long walking distances between some metered blocks. Ms. North stated that staff could ask RPCA if they were amenable to having a physical meter in Windmill Hill Park.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: None.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Tucker made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kane to approve the implementation of residential pay by phone requirement (\$1.75 per hour) on the 500 block of South Lee Street. The motion was supported by six board member with Ms. Mihalik opposing the motion.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. **STAFF UPDATES:** Ms. McGraw provided the Board with an update regarding the City contracting an external parking enforcement unit to increase enforcement in addition to our internal staff. Ms. North stated that the Police Department is also working on hiring additional crossing guards.
11. **COMMISSIONER UPDATES:** Mr. Kane stated that the Transportation Commission did not meet in July but asked if the City has a contract with a towing company for the

spaces adjacent to the dumpsters in the Foxchase Apartments complex, to which Ms. North responded that staff would need to check and follow up on how that is going.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ebbers moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Mihalik. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.