

2021.11.8 BPAC Minutes
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Virtual meeting

Attendees:

BPAC Members: Eldon Boes, David Bouk, Mike Derby, Zack DesJardins, Bob Hartt, Casey Kane, David Levy, Josephine Liu, Michael Menchel, Erin Meter, Ken Notis, Mike O'Neil, Mary-Jane Roth

Past Members/Guests:

City staff: Vicki Caudullo (Transportation & Environmental Services)

Meeting called to order – Mary-Jane Roth at 6:30 pm

Dockless Mobility and Capital Bikeshare update - Vicki Caudullo

- City of Alexandria received a grant from the Virginia Department of Transportation to purchase 26 Capital Bikeshare stations about five years ago. VDOT approval has taken a long time but was finally in Spring 2021. The equipment was ordered and has begun to arrive in November.
- New installation of some stations start this week and will continue through the spring of 2022
 - S Pickett and Shillings
 - Peyton St & King St
 - Jordan St & Venable St
- Elizabeth Wright asked why the Beatley Library site was not available as she had always envisioned station going to the left of the entrance. Vicki stated that she is still talking to the librarians to figure out a location.
- Casey asked about the service area for e-bikes. After a lot of back and forth with the bikeshare operator, Alexandria and the other member jurisdictions expanded the service area to include the new stations.
- Ken asked whether the new stations included developer-funded stations. Vicki anticipated some potential stations would be paid for by developers in 2022.
- Mary-Jane Roth attended Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Group. They mentioned there was no bikeshare planned for the north entrance to the Metro and Mary-Jane asked why. Vicki stated they have funding for at least 2-3 stations (Virginia Tech campus entrance and one for south entrance). Vicki has worked closely with Megan Oleynik to figure out sites.

Dockless Mobility Update

- The Dockless Mobility program allows people to rent e-scooters and e-bikes which are able to be left anywhere (i.e. not in docks)
- Asking City Council in November to replace pilot program with a permanent dockless mobility program (it passed)

- 30,000-40,000 deckles mobility trips were made in summer 2019
- Operators stopped during the beginning of the pandemic (March through May 2020)
- Ridership has returned somewhat in 2021 for around 18,000 trips during summer months, devices are still being used a lot by residents
- Vicki showed a map of locations where devices were frequently parked. While many devices are parked in Old Town and along with Mt Vernon Ave corridor, devices are being used on the west end more often.
- Equity areas, city has required companies to deploy (leave out in the morning for rent) a percentage of devices (30%) in certain neighborhoods which increased trips in those areas from 7% to 20% of all trips starting or ending, and staff are not proposing changes to this plan.
- 15.6% of trips start or end at Metro
 - 8% of trips start or end at King St Metro
 - 7% start or end at Braddock Rd Metro
 - 0.3% start or end at Eisenhower Ave Metro
 - 0.3% start or end at Van Dorn Metro
- Ad-hoc e-scooter task to represent the city and present a recommendation to the city
- Key proposed changes
 - Improper parking can cause ADA and safety issues (city to add more corrals to discourage parking on the sidewalks) and may begin removing parking for e-scooter corrals, would only be when there is a need and no other option
 - Safety, e-scooter riders may not always follow laws, and staff are considering geofencing the waterfront to reduce speeds of e-scooters and e-bikes there.
 - What fraction of e-scooter trips displaced trips by vehicle trips? Vicki did not have an answer since it is difficult to count. Staff had asked this in a survey in 2019 but have not done a subsequent survey.
 - Bob Hartt asked about the lock-to requirement that Washington, DC. Is that something that the city is considering implementing here? Vicki said it took effect October 1 in Washington, DC but it is not being considered at this time in Alexandria. It is something for Alexandria to keep an eye on, something to potentially consider in the future, and some companies have already installed locks on devices.
 - David Bouk asked about the process to call the company and then go to 311. What is the city going to do about e-scooter companies which do not respond to complaints? What degree will Lime or any other company be

held accountable? Vicki stated that they ask residents to reach out to operators first because they will usually resolve it faster but it does not work all the time. 311 is not a perfect system either. 311 is set up to have a response within two weeks which is too long for e-scooters and the worst issues do end up on Vicki's desk. How do you address the challenge of operators who are not responsive? City will move to a competitive process.

- Will require companies to deploy close to Metro and bus stops
- City will hold companies accountable via a competitive permit process and potentially some legal consequences
- Elizabeth asked when the device is parked and the battery dies, how the company can retrieve it? The devices have a GPS to find it. In rare instances, the GPS stops working due to being thrown in the river.
- Formal opportunity for comment to the city council is on Saturday.

Project/Event updates:

- BPAC Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) update – Mary-Jane
 - Nothing new to report
- Upcoming rides and walks
 - 45-50 people came to Halloween ride
 - Veterans Walk on Sunday at 9:30 am at Market Square
 - Holiday lights ride and walk, December 17 and 18

Subcommittee Reports

- Infrastructure subcommittee – Ken Notis, Chair
 - Capital Trails Coalition ride talked about Beauregard Trail from Silver Diner, 0.5 mile of sidewalk widening along Beauregard St from King St to Fillmore St will begin outreach in December
- Education subcommittee – Eldon Boes, Chair
 - Safe Routes to Schools and BITS is now in all elementary and middle schools, still maturing as teaching and curriculum is improving and will be tracking the progress of the students
 - VDOT funding has disappeared and ACPS may have a rough time maintaining a fleet of bicycles and acquiring them
 - Francis Hammond resumed this year but the bicycles are in rough shape
 - BPAC may need to fundraise or apply for grants and make the case that the program needs to be funded within ACPS

Subcommittee Reports

- Staff changes for Transportation Commission, Megan Olynik, and Traffic & Park-

ing Board, Bob Garbacz has stepped down and Alex Block has replaced him

- Parks and Recreation status, the bridge at 4600 Duke St on the Holmes Run Parkway trail and it has gone to engineering but does not anticipate a fix by late spring or summer

BPAC Business items

- September minutes approved
- Treasurer's report: \$14,060.24 balance
 - NVRC sent payment for Smart Cycling class (\$1,605.50)
 - \$30 expense for nonprofit
- New business
 - Eldon presented the volunteer vest idea, Eldon will order one or two vests, and then may recommend
- Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Group
 - City has proposed some extensive improvements to the South entrance based on community feedback including from the National Industries for the Blind
- Last spring, Casey asked for update for the bike maps and the city only just got approval to acquire new maps, hopefully by Bike to Work day
- Operation Illumination, city is staffing four locations and only needed one volunteer

Public Comment