

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021, 7 P.M.  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman, William Schuyler, Vice Chair, James Lewis, Jason Osborne, Annie Ebbers, Ann Tucker, Lavonda Bonnard and Casey Kane

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alex Block, Principal Planner, Ryan Knight, Civil Engineering IV, Cuong Nguyen, Civil Engineering III, Hillary Orr, Deputy Director of Transportation, and Alexandria Carroll, Urban Planner III.

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.

2. Virtual Meeting Resolution:

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker to approve the virtual meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the October 25, 2021, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborne to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** None.

5. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:** Ms. Susan Clark-Sestak requested to modify the No Turn on Red restriction at the intersection of Seminary Road and St. Stephen Road to “No Turn on Red when pedestrians are present.” Chair Schuyler asked Staff to look into the matter. Mr. Greg Skarda testified about traffic on the 200-600 blocks of Duke Street and asked for them to be designated the same as other streets in the area. Ms. Clare Skarda asked the Board to review a series of maps as well as her proposed remedy to Duke street traffic.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOW UP:** Mr. Block updated the Board on the timing of the construction at the King Street Metro Station, and clarified that the curbside changes related to construction would revert to their previous configuration as soon as construction was complete, which is expected in mid-December.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kane to approve the request on item 7 and item 8 on the Consent items list. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to add all-way stop at the intersection of Helen Street and Leadbeater Street.
8. **ISSUE:** Modification of Previously Approved Capital Bikeshare Station Location at S. Reynolds and Edsall

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

9. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to reduce the posted speed limit on Seminary Road.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Carroll presented the item to the Board. Ms. Tucker asked about complementary measures to the reduced limit; Ms. Carroll noted various plans to add Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, speed feedback signs, as well as a new traffic light at the intersection with Fairbanks Ave. Mr. Kane asked about pedestrian improvements; Ms. Carroll noted the City will pursue ADA upgrades and will evaluate new pedestrian crossings on a case by case basis.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Mr. Mike Doyle, spoke in favor of the change, noting that speed is a major factor in death and severe injury in crashes. Mr. Oscar Gonzalez spoke in favor, and that this change would demonstrate the City's commitment to safety. Mr. Jim Durham spoke in favor, with regret that this portion of Seminary Road was not include in an earlier effort to reduce speed limits. Mr. Steve Royster spoke in favor, wanting the West End to live up to the City's vision for safety. Ms. Victoria Waskowicz spoke in favor, noting that red light running is a problem at Seminary and Echols. Mr. Nick Kuhn spoke in favor of the request, as well as anything that can be done to improve conditions for bikers and walkers. Ms. Elizabeth Abbas Dahouk spoke in favor, as she must cross the street twice daily with her children.

**BOARD ACTION:** Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborne to approve the request to reduce the posted speed limit on Seminary Road . The motion carried unanimously.

10. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to add a left turn restriction out of Yale Drive at the Duke Street intersection by installing a pedestrian refuge island that allows left-in, right-in, and right-out movement.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Knight presented the item to the Board. Ms. Tucker asked if the crash data suggested left turns from Duke street were a bigger danger, and wondered if a pilot time-based turn restriction might be preferable. Mr. Knight noted that the data is incomplete, but the overall number and type of crashes warrants a larger intervention. Mr. Kane asked about the materials for the pedestrian refuge; Mr. Knight noted that initial plans called for paint and 'armadillo' barriers, but may consider concrete as well. Mr. Osborne asked if there was enough room to add separate lanes to separate turning

movements. Mr. Knight noted that such a design increases points of conflict and the City would not recommend it. Mr. Lewis asked about using bulb-outs to shorten the crossing distance. Mr. Knight noted that bulb outs don't address the issue with turning movements. Mr. Lewis expressed concern that the Board didn't have enough time to review complex designs, and asked if they could see items like this earlier in the process.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Mr. Roy Byrd, president of the Clover College Park Civic Association spoke in favor of the proposal, noting that this is a blind left turn for drivers exiting Yale Drive, and residents have other options in the area. Ms. Lisa Porter spoke in favor of the request, noting that drivers behave terribly at this intersection.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Osborne made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers to approve the request to add a left turn restriction out of Yale Drive at the Duke Street intersection by installing a pedestrian refuge island that allows left-in, right-in, and right-out movement. The motion carried 5-2, with Mr. Lewis and Ms. Tucker opposed.

**11. ISSUE:** Consideration of a recommendation to adopt Parklet Requirements for a Citywide permanent parklet program.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Block presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked for clarity about outreach to residents including renters, not just property owners. Mr. Block clarified that the outreach requirement included rental tenants. Mr. Schuyler supported the proposed process for Board review, but noted that the Board will face the same issues in adjudicating conflicting applicants as Staff would. Ms. Bonnard noted that conflicts may not be an issue, since the City is likely to see fewer overall applicants for a permanent program. Mr. Schuyler asked to include a periodic review of these requirements before the Board; Mr. Block agreed.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** Mr. Cyrus Coleman, owner of The Wharf restaurant, spoke in favor of the program, but expressed concerns about details for the 100 block of King Street. Ms. Morgan Babcock, of the Carlyle Council, asked about the impacts to existing parklets installed during the pandemic. Ms. Charlotte Hall, with the Old Town Business Association spoke in favor of the proposal, thanking the Board for helping businesses survive the pandemic and thrive in recovery, and would like to see support for parklet applicants in the outreach process.

**BOARD ACTION:** Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Osborne to approve the Parklet Requirements, with additions to the document to provide for a periodic review before the Board and a new recommendation about concentration of parklets on a single block. The motion carried unanimously.

**12. STAFF UPDATES:**

- Mr. Knight presented Duke Street GIS update
- Mr. Block presented the 2022 Meeting Schedule