

Aurora Highland Civic Association Meeting Minutes

13 November 2019

Transportation Update

Q/A with Arlington County Environmental Services

Question: South Eads Complete Street Project

Over of Transportation:

Working on Transportation Study, Building a Traffic model for analysis and simulation.

Study started in October 2019, slated to end late 2020.

Question: Do we know baseline of traffic?

Answer: We don't have one right now. We're actively collecting data and examining variables that are most impactful to the future traffic model.

Question: What are the metrics tracked?

Answer: Hourly and Daily data. We've installed 15 counting stations since 2016. The data is analyzed and aggregated before being put on the county website. We're currently reevaluating equipment, as it is rapidly improving, but we are finding bugs and issues with some of the sensor equipment. We are looking to re-establish the county-wide traffic counting program.

Operations Update: Roadway and sign improvements for the area around the Ride-Sharing Lot. The most recent improvements have generated an extra 5,000 trips per day over what could previously be handled. The Route 1 signal improved traffic flow, but not enough.

Question: When will the county close the lot?

Answer: Waiting on the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA) to determine when the lot can close, they have not provided the county with a precise date for construction to be completed. In addition, the Memorial Bridge construction has ended up adding additional traffic to the area. County is working with all of this for the Complete Street master planning program.

Question: Since Complete Street Started, have other modes of transit gone up?

Answer: Transit ridership bottomed during major metro maintenance in the past 18 months. However, since September 2019, Metro, ART, and Metrobus ridership are all increasing.

Matt di Ferranti (had to jump into the conversation due to running overtime and he had to leave soon).

He acknowledged concerns raised by the audience on traffic issues. The county needs to be more responsive than they have been. Corporate vacancy rates have dropped from 18% to 16%. Our growth hasn't been perfect but some efforts have paid off, such as school quality. We need to evaluate growth, since it doesn't happen in the vacuum. Some can't afford homes while those who can are faced with higher tax burdens.

Question: How can we hold people accountable for traffic counting stations failing? The county needs a moratorium on traffic decisions until it has better traffic data.

Answer: Data is important, but let me get more informed and I'll bring more information in January 2020.

Question: Will the county put the new county auditor into the decision-making process as well as the permitting process?

Answer: I'll look into it and return with more information for the January 2020 meeting. Please help me be accountable to you, ask hard questions.

Mark Schnaffer (County Capital Projects Manager)

Many county projects have been in long-term development, not necessarily due to Amazon. 23rd St between Eads St and Route 1 for example. The street will be moved slightly south. Bike lane improvements will come between Army Navy Drive and 18th St. 18th Street project, including realigning the intersection at Hayes St for safety and changing 18th Yield sign to a Stop sign. Crystal City street improvements will be put on the County's website.

Question: Are these coming from the Sector Plan?

Answer: Yes, the Plan dictated traffic diversion into neighborhoods, but this isn't happening.

Question: Would you talk about big picture traffic projects, not individual ones?

Question: Traffic and speeding keep getting worse, is there anything to address this?

Answer: We're planning projects with increased safety in mind.

There is an Arlington Transportation Newsletter available.

Census 2020 Jobs Presentation

Hiring hundreds of positions for the area. Pay is \$25 per hour, with flexible work hours. Working anywhere from 10-40 hours per week. Takes about 20 minutes to submit an application. Go to 2020census.gov/jobs

Mike Dowell – Livability Framework

Area civic associations released a joint plan on livability with actionable items. Next steps are workshops and we need participation. Upwards of 8-10 million square feet of development are coming for our area. We looked at the next 25 years of growth and saw Pentagon City lacks any sort of long-term growth plan. We want to leverage the Livability Plan to guide Pentagon City planning. We hope the Plan will help address housing affordability and we have identified priorities for the area and are putting together housing workshops for January 2020. We are trying to address the “missing middle” of housing.

We examined the essential services that encourage community building, such as a new Urgent Care facility. One is slated to be constructed on 23rd St. We would like to also build out the trail networks, for example to increase access ability to Roaches Run. We are utilizing current plans and are building on them, though we need more information to fill gaps in our knowledge of some of the issues. We want to push the county to pilot projects faster to better evaluate ideas in a more timely manner.

The Plan is available online: <https://aurorahighlands.org/livability/>

Please email suggestions and consider attending future workshops on various issues.

Aurora Highlands Civic Association Election Results

President: Scott Miles; 1st Vice President: Miriam Gennari; 2nd Vice President: Heather Jensen; Recording Secretary: Calvin Wiley; Treasurer: Ben Davis; Corresponding Secretary: Natasha Atkins.

Metropolitan Park 6/7/8 Updates

List of community benefits to provide to the County and Amazon. Updates from the 3 Site Plan Review Committee meetings.

Question: What total number of new Amazon jobs are coming?

Answer: Could be up to 38,000 instead of the advertised 25,000.

Question: Should we create contingency plans in case this occurs?

Crystal City Business Improvement District Updates

Upcoming open houses to attend. The BID's boundary expansion has been approved by the County. Re-covered past BID briefings on name change and expansion.

Melwood Donation

Melwood is asking the Civic Association for a donation of \$500, to be authorized at the January 2020 meeting.

DRAFT