

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024, 7 P.M.
IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING**

MINUTES

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: T&ES – Katye North, Division Chief; Sheila McGraw, Principal Planner; Katherine Carraway, Principal Planner; Alex Carroll, Principal Planner; Sara Brandt-Vorel, Principal Planner; and Max Devilliers, Urban Planner III.

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: None.
2. Approval of the October 28, 2024, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes:

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Tucker made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ebbers, to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2024, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **WRITTEN STAFF UPDATES:** The Board received written staff updates on:
 - 200 Block of King Street Pilot Pedestrianization Update
 - Duke Street Transitway Update
 - Mr. Kane asked that the Director of T&ES notify the Board in the future when the Director of T&ES makes a recommendation that differs from the recommendation made by the Board.
 - Annual Residential Parking Permit Fees Update
 - Traffic and Parking Board Schedule for 2025
4. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD:** None.

CONSENT ITEMS

5. **ISSUE:** Stop Sign Addition - Intersection of Marstellar Street/Oak Street and Marstellar Street/Walnut Street

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to recommend the Director of T&ES to install a stop sign on Marstellar Street at both East Oak Street and East Walnut Street. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **ISSUE:** Parking Removal - 3640 Wheeler Avenue

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to recommend the Director of T&ES remove 200 linear feet of on-street parking at 3640 Wheeler Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **ISSUE:** Parking Addition and Removal - 3800 Block of Mount Vernon Avenue

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to recommend the Director of T&ES:

- Add 50 feet of on-street parking with 2-hour parking restrictions, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Monday through Saturday, on the east side of the 3800 block of Mount Vernon Avenue (in front of 3811 Mount Vernon Avenue), and
- Remove 20 feet of on-street parking on the east side of the 3800 block of Mount Vernon Avenue (in front of 3809 Mount Vernon Avenue).

The motion carried unanimously.

8. **ISSUE:** Residential Pay by Phone - 400 block of South Fairfax Street

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Kane made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to recommend the Director of T&ES implement a residential pay by phone requirement (\$1.75 per hour) for the 400 block of South Fairfax Street. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

9. **ISSUE:** Parking Removal - 159 Dale Street (on Edison Street) and 3602 Edison Street

DISCUSSION: Mr. Devilliers presented the item to the Board. Ms. Ebbers asked why a crosswalk across Dale Street and on the south side of the intersection were not included in this proposal, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that there are concerns amongst the community about parking availability. Chair Lewis suggested adding a crosswalk in the future across the Unit block of Dale Street where the fire hydrant exists across Hume Springs Park to avoid the need for excessive parking removal.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Richard Pantoja testified in support.

Ben Stecker testified in opposition because Mr. Stecker believes the crosswalk will embolden pedestrians crossing Edison Street to cross without looking both ways first.

Greta Neimanas testified in support.

Benjamin Smith testified in support because many homes have off-street parking in the rear, which is often underutilized due to sharp waste discouraging drivers to park in off-street spaces accessed via the alleys. Mr. Smith also requested that flexposts be installed at either end of the crosswalk.

Julie Smith testified in opposition due to concerns with parking availability.

Colleen Stover requested more traffic safety measures beyond the one crosswalk as well as a solution to parking availability.

Chair Lewis asked if a double yellow centerline could be painted on Edison Street, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that he would check with Transportation Engineering. Chair Lewis asked if this neighborhood would be eligible for a new Residential Permit Parking District, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that the Hume Springs neighborhood alone would be too small to meet the eligibility requirements listed in the Code. Mr. Kane asked if the City could paint advisory bike markings on Edison Street, which Mr. Devilliers will relay to Transportation Engineering. Chair Lewis asked if parking removal requests must meet a certain signature requirement, to which Mr. Devilliers responded that they do not.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Phelps, to recommend the Director of T&ES remove 3 parking spaces to install a crosswalk across Edison Street, and that staff consider additional crosswalk-related enhancements followed by a written update with what was considered and what was implemented. The motion carried unanimously.

10. **ISSUE:** Taxicab Biennial Review

DISCUSSION: Ms. McGraw presented the item to the Board. Mr. Kane asked what the compliance issues are, to which Ms. McGraw responded that staff are still evaluating, but issues include dispatch hours, ADA-accessible vehicles available at all hours of operation, et cetera, but none of the issues are safety-related.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Surafel Bekele testified in support.

Shah Nusrati testified in support.

Jon Liss testified in support. Ms. Ebbers asked if the HACK office is addressing the compliance issues, to which Ms. McGraw responded that they are and will update the Board on this in six months.

Daniel Merris testified in support.

Daniel Woldegiorgis asked that the insurance coverage requirement be lowered. Chair Lewis asked how someone can create a new taxi company in Alexandria, to which Ms.

McGraw responded that there is a section of the City Code that outlines everything needed to do so.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. Ebbers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mihalik, to accept the Biennial Taxicab Review and maintains current taxicab regulations, and to request a Written Update from the HACK office on the compliance issues at the February 2025 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

11. **STAFF UPDATES:** None.

12. **COMMISSIONER UPDATES:**

- Mr. Kane requested that the bike lanes on Wheeler Avenue be completed and that staff add 'No Parking' signs for the bike lanes to facilitate parking enforcement
- Mr. Kane is concerned with the trailers hanging over the sidewalks/public right-of-way on Wheeler Avenue
- The Transportation Commission voted to approve a CMAQ grant for Safe Routes to School work scheduled for 2031 as well as bus bulbs
- The Eisenhower West/Landmark Van Dorn Implementation Advisory Group met to consider the Victory Center redevelopment which will include tax credits for only the new buildings to be built on site.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Tucker moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Phelps. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.