



To: Michael Rademacher

Date: July 6, 2016

Memorandum

Project #: 13474

From: Stephen Derdarian

Re: Conceptual Plan Mass Avenue Phase II  
Public Meeting #2: Follow-on Public Input

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The following Public Meeting #2 attendee input was received via emails by participants subsequent to the meeting by the Arlington Planning and Community Development Department and are compiled here for reference:

1. 1) While I am very late to the discussion, I learned Arlington is planning Mass Ave street meters as part of a long ongoing project. I was surprised this is being done as individual (or dual) meters. Nowadays city's are removing meters. The meters create an encumbrance on the city as whole. Walkers, pedestrians, people that park, and bikers need a unencumbered flat open terrain to enjoy the downtown. There is no need for meters. When in Washington DC recently I noticed they are moving away from meters. In the digital age there is no need for meters. The same pay for parking can be accomplished with pay for parking phone applications and phone dial to pay type services. This results in only street signs needed on the street. A couple pay for park kiosks could be added to this arrangement if needed. But by doing phone pay to park the parking enforcement can still quickly scan license plates and issue tickets. In fact it would be much more enforceable. Washington uses Parkmobile app. <http://ddot.dc.gov/page/pay-phone-parking>
  
- 2) In the area of town hall and the library, I was surprised to hear the potential for narrowed walkway on the retail side of the street while maintaining a wider walk on the town hall side. This would absolutely be defeatist mentality. The city is working in the right direction with the East Arlington upgrades. The main objective of the downtown upgrades is to create an environment welcoming to downtown and enticing for a vibrant retail. Without retail you have no reason to be in the downtown. You need to do what you can to increase retail usability. With that in mind (as also mentioned during the meeting), I recommend removing the trees from the street side of the Great Wall from Town Hall to the library. I just walked that side of the street at 2pm in June and find trees from park side of the wall help shade the walkers. This side of the street should be fully unencumbered flat and open. This will also enhance the visibility of the Great Wall of Arlington and visibility to the park. I do generally want to see dedicated bike lanes but as mentioned in the design one option would reduce the width of the retail sidewalk while maintaining wider town hall side sidewalk. That is the crux of the problem and removing the trees from the town hall side and reducing that walkway width as much as possible to allow for the widest open encumbered walkway on the retail side should be paramount.
  
- 3) While some knowing the history of the parks downtown may find it difficult to change for the Broadway Mass Ave area. I do find a change to extend Alton to Mass Ave and create a larger open space is important. I don't have enough information yet to determine which, but it does appear Option B or C is best. The difficult truth of the matter is that the reflection circle area is nice but is somewhat of a detractor to a vibrant downtown. It's true that Arlington is starting to be known as an artist Haven and that will not be enhanced by the current downtown park layout. I applaud your efforts to make the hard changes. While doing this please

keep in mind open encumbered walking, parking, and biking is top priority as it relates to access to retail storefronts especially on those from Alton up to the corner at the Starbucks.

4) I recommend a further planning design meeting that would just address the Broadway downtown park area.

5) Move the Bus. There is no need for that bus (#87) to park at the end of Broadway. Move it down to in front of the fire station as planned and do it now. Don't wait.

Todd Rodzen, 6/18/16

2. During the presentation, I was rather surprised by the aerial picture of the civil war monument in Arlington Plaza. I thought to myself "is that big monument really at the tip of the plaza?". And indeed it is. I commute by the monument nearly every day, and I've always seen it up close, at eye level, while moving and watching traffic. In other words, I'm completely guilty of mistaking it for a granite block wall. I think the B & C options for Broadway Plaza might do more justice to the monument, by providing better vantage points. Or at least vantage points that don't involve standing in the middle of a road.

Regarding the civic center, I do like the idea of preserving more sidewalk on the north (business) side of Mass Ave, and removing more sidewalk on the south (town hall, library) side. I would also not be offended if the parking spaces in front of town hall and the library were removed, in order to provide bike lanes in both directions. I understand that the removal of parking spaces can be unpopular, and that traffic in the town center can be a pain. However, I don't see traffic (or parking) conditions getting better unless there's a population decrease, some conversion of existing land use into roads, or more people using non-automotive forms of transit. Personally, I tend to like the third of those options.

I also wonder if it would be feasible to raise the crosswalks across Mass Ave in Arlington center. Raised crosswalks would have the effect of slowing traffic down, which could improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians.

Steve Revilak, 6/19/16

3. One (serious) question: can a crosswalk at Pond Lane be included? I made the suggestion during our Town Hall meeting. I regularly see pedestrians of all ages and "stripes" jaywalking. Given the recreational opportunities by Spy Pond, it seems to be a real public safety necessity. Hate to think that we need yet another accident to prove the importance.  
Jonathon Barkan, 6/22/16

4. Mass Ave Phase II FAILS to leverage Minuteman traffic:  
With all the local and out of town cyclists on the Minuteman, where is the enticement at Whittemore Park for them to stop, PARK, and linger in Arlington Center when and where they cross Mass Ave???

I see no big bicycle parking corral at Whittemore Park with benches and tables inviting people to stop and walk. There is an opportunity to get business from cyclists the way Lexington center does. Don't waste it!  
Mark Kaepplein, 6/28/16