

**DATE:** January 21, 2018  
**TO:** Mayor Tarter and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation  
**SUBJECT:** 2017 Annual Report

## **Introduction**

This report summarizes the calendar year 2017 activities of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT) and its priorities for 2018. Members of the CACT include Andrea Caumont (Chair), Paul Baldino (Vice-Chair), Steve Knight, Addison Heard, Bill Ackerman, Doug Devereaux and Dave Gustafson. The CACT is supported by Transportation Planner Jeff Sikes, and, until her departure last summer, Stephanie Rogers with the Department of Public Works. Council liaison Karen Oliver was our helpful guide until the end of her term in December. The CACT would like to thank Jeff, Stephanie and Karen for their invaluable support and guidance.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve the growing City of Falls Church by working with citizens and City staff to improve the safety and effectiveness of transportation in and around the City.

## **Neighborhood Traffic calming program**

The CACT continued to assist staff in implementing the Neighborhood Traffic Calming (NTC) program by reviewing and selecting cases and nominating a CACT member to serve as a liaison for each project. Currently there are 2 active cases, 6 cases in the NTC queue and 8 potential cases circulating petitions. An after-study of any implemented traffic calming measures is required under the NTC program.

### **2017 NTC Projects**

#### **Pennsylvania Avenue**

- Final landscaping installed in Spring of 2017
- After-study data collected, analysis pending

#### **Maple Avenue**

- Striping of parking lanes on Maple, striped bump-outs at Maple/Great Falls
- Construction of bump outs at intersection of Columbia and Maple
- Crosswalk mid-block on Maple to Columbia Baptist
- Speed hump mid-block on Maple

- After-study data to be collected in the spring

### **Little Falls/Great Falls Streets**

- Working group meeting held to discuss possible traffic calming measures

### **Additional Traffic Safety Projects**

City staff implemented traffic safety measures on **Lincoln Avenue and West Streets**, including:

- Striping of parking lanes to narrow the travel lanes
- Striping of crosswalks
- Construction of two pedestrian refuges on Lincoln.
- After-study data to be collected in the spring

Staff completed these large projects very quickly and the residents were very pleased, even baking cupcakes to celebrate the new crosswalks.



Staff also mobilized to address concerns raised about a crosswalk and three-way stop near the Harris Teeter on **Annandale Road**, quickly implementing:

- The addition of a beacon to the stop sign at Annandale and Gundry (the first in the City)
- New parking restrictions intended to improve visibility for pedestrians at the crosswalk to Big Chimneys Park.

Additional traffic safety and traffic calming measures are planned for Annandale as part of the Big Chimneys project scheduled for 2018.

### **Refinement of the NTC**

The CACT plans to evaluate and refine the Neighborhood Traffic Calming program in early 2018. For example, a clearer understanding of what is a traffic calming issue

and what is a traffic safety issue (and the appropriate process for each type of request) may be needed.

### **Funding for the NTC**

Thanks to the efforts of staff, the NTC will receive grant funding in the summer of 2019. Until that time, there is a funding gap for the program. The CACT would like to renew its request that Council fund a recurring Capital Improvement Program (CIP) line item of \$200,000 for Neighborhood Traffic Calming (NTC) and increase staffing to address the backlog of citizen petitions.

### **Additional Projects**

In addition to providing comments on the Falls Church 2040 vision statement, the CACT provided comments and engaged in the following areas:

#### **Comments on Proposed Development Projects**

- Railroad Cottages
- Insight Broad and Washington development

#### **Comments on Transportation Projects**

- CACT members provided comments to City staff on the siting of new Capital Bikeshare stations in the City
- The CACT provided a letter of support for a pedestrian/cyclist bridge for the W&OD over Route 29
- The CACT provided a letter of support to NOVA Parks for the proposed dual trail pilot of the W&OD in Falls Church.

#### **Streetscape Task Force**

- CACT members Bill Ackerman and Steve Knight represented the CACT on the Streetscape task force

#### **Neighborhood Pace Car Program**

- The CACT is close to finalizing a PACE Car program for the City of Falls Church. This program is intended to foster safe driving throughout the City. Participants will pledge to always obey speed limits and be courteous drivers.

#### **Bike To Work Day**

More than 400 cyclists registered for the 2017 Bike to Work Day pit stop in Falls Church where t-shirts, food, coffee and good cheer abounded!



### **Parklets**

The CACT researched the concept of parklets in 2017. The attached memo outlines our findings, including common features of parklets, what they can achieve and location considerations. The CACT believes parklets are highly suitable for the City.

### **Bicycle Advocacy**

As part of the exploration of the formation of a bicycle advocacy group, CACT members met with the president and board members of the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) in the spring of 2017. FABB was very open to the participation and representation of Falls Church City cyclists in its membership. In order to help introduce the organization to City cyclists, FABB held its monthly membership meeting at City Hall in April.

### **Planning Commission Joint Meeting**

Following a successful joint meeting with the EDA in 2016, the CACT joined the Planning Commission for its April 3 meeting to discuss and provide updates on the NTC, BikeShare and other topics of interest. The CACT found the joint meeting very useful in understanding the goals and concerns of the Planning Commission and hopes that improved communication and information sharing will assist both bodies in making better decisions for the City.

As a follow-up to this joint meeting, CACT staff liaison Jeff Sikes provided an update to the Planning Commission on the status of the NTC program in October.

### **Play Streets**

CACT Chair Andrea Caumont partnered with her neighbors to host a kickoff Play Streets event on Pennsylvania Avenue in April. The event was very well attended, with roughly 100 adults and kids turning out. An additional Play Streets event was hosted on Brook Drive. Publicizing the program will be a 2018 goal for the CACT.



## 2018-2019 Goals

- GMHS campus project – CACT members will be actively engaged in the planning for the GMHS campus project
- Walk or Bike to School Day (May 9, 2018) – collaborate with FCCPS Health and Wellness Committee to encourage kids to walk or bike to school
- Park(ing) Day (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September) – recommendations for parklet locations, programming
- Bike rodeo/TOPS event – this community educational event is contingent on the assignment of a new DPW representative to the CACT
- Plan a family social bike ride, such as a Kidical Mass ride, perhaps in collaboration with FABB
- Administer, evaluate and refine the NTC program
- Publicize the Play Streets program