



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

DATE: August 20, 2018

TO: Mayor David Tarter and Members of City Council

THROUGH: Wyatt Shields, City Manager

FROM: Human Services Advisory Council and Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation

SUBJECT: Recommendations from the joint meeting between HSAC and CACT

The Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) and Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT) met jointly on July 19, 2018 to discuss issues of common interest with the vision of communicating to City Council some recommended long-term and short-term goals. These recommendations follow.

Long-term goals

Walkability:

CACT conducted a survey in 2016, which found City residents give the City's main commercial streets Broad and Washington middling grades on walkability. Outside of the commercial areas, the presence of narrow sidewalks or a lack of sidewalks is common. In several neighborhoods, sidewalks abruptly end.

Recommendations:

- Increase accessibility for people of all abilities through the use of sidewalks. Do not obstruct pedestrians, wheelchairs, or strollers with tables, planters, signs, etc. These should be permitted only in areas where there is enough room for a wheelchair, stroller, etc. to pass.
- Sidewalks are sometimes blocked because of construction and signage. Make every effort to keep sidewalks clear.
- Flatten sidewalks and avoid tripping hazards. Have a program to report tripping hazards so sidewalks can be ground down where needed.
- Pursue grant funding for the construction of new sidewalks or the improvement of existing sidewalks.
- Equip mid-block crossings with pedestrian-activated flashing signals. Do not allow mid-block crossings without it.

Shuttle service:

Recommendations:

- Provide a City subsidy for taxis or other on-demand car services for travel to the metro.
- Provide a financial incentive to businesses with current shuttle service such as Beyer Volvo, Oakwood Apartments, or Hilton Garden Inn to expand their service, or provide other local government incentives/facilitation to encourage private companies with shuttle service to work together to cover the City.

Short-term goals

Traffic lights:

Recommendations:

- Have walk signals on the main streets be automatic (on a cycle) so people do not have to push a button to activate. This can be difficult for people with ability challenges. Walk signals in the City can be hard for people who are visually impaired or in wheelchairs to see, e.g. near The Kensington. Audible signals are the best answer. All new signals should be audible.
- Broad and Lee seems to be a dangerous intersection, possibly due to the fact that it is not symmetrical. It is particularly concerning because it is near the Kensington and the walk signals are not visible to everyone. “Square” asymmetrical intersections when possible and add pedestrian lights on all corners.
- Walk signals are needed at Annandale and Maple as well as at Annandale and Rte. 29. Preschoolers cross there.
- Ensure pedestrian signals are audible.
- Increase the number of signals with leading pedestrian intervals.
- Require developers to pay for pedestrian signals.

Stop signs:

Recommendations:

- Study whether the addition of a stop sign at Lee and Park is warranted.
- Conduct a “look both ways” campaign for when vehicles come to a stop sign.

Bike share:

Recommendation:

- This is a nice service for people who can ride bikes, but the increase in bike traffic may be hard for some people, including the elderly and people with disabilities, to navigate. Conduct an educational campaign on bike-safety for both riders and pedestrians. Ensure that sidewalks are not blocked by the bike share stations.