



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

DATE: January 9, 2019

TO: Mayor Tarter and Members of City Council

FROM: Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT)

SUBJECT: CACT 2018 Annual Report

Introduction

This report summarizes the calendar year 2018 activities of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT) and its priorities for 2019. 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 Tara Puzin, P.E., Department of Public Works. We would like to thank them for their invaluable support. We would also like to thank our City Council liaison Dave Snyder and our Planning Commission liaison Melissa Teates for their guidance and support.

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 petitioned cases (W. Annandale Rd./Gundry Dr. and Great Falls/Little Falls St), 2 active administrative cases (N. West St. and Lincoln Ave.), 5 qualified cases in the NTC queue and 8 potential cases circulating petitions. The CACT plans to evaluate and refine the Neighborhood Traffic Calming program in 2019. While funding has been an ongoing issue for the NTC, the CACT looks forward to the availability of roughly \$800,000 in funding for the program in fiscal year 2020, thanks to the efforts of staff who applied for grant funding via the Bike Pedestrian Safety Program (BPSP).

Joint meetings with the Environmental Sustainability Council (ESC) and the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC)

In April, the CACT met jointly with the Environmental Sustainability Council (ESC) to discuss the potential for shuttle service in the City and to hear about the current state of Autonomous Vehicles (AV). The CACT and ESC were joined by Dalia Leven of AECOM who extensively discussed AV technology and advised members that the City is not yet dense enough to support a shuttle system.

In July, the CACT met jointly with the Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC) to discuss accessibility and transportation. The HSAC and CACT agreed on a list of recommendations that they felt would make walking and access safer and more equitable and provided these recommendations to Council.

Zoned residential permit parking

The CACT made a recommendation to Council for permit parking hours for Grove Avenue abutting the Founders Row development. As the City continues to implement new zoned residential permit parking programs to preserve on-street parking for residents it will need to: a) provide enforcement for any such restrictions when they are in effect, to include nights and weekends; and b) carefully consider how proposed restrictions may impact the general public's access to nearby public amenities such as City parks. The CACT believes that our streets are public spaces and restrictions on public City streets should be implemented only when absolutely necessary.

Improving walkability

The CACT wrote a letter to Council recommending the City complete the sidewalk section on the north side of Park Avenue at Virginia Street. The CACT strongly supports making small changes to improve walkability in the City. This project was a prime example of these kinds of opportunities.

Parking Day

The CACT was happy to participate in the City of Falls Church's first Parking Day on September 21, 2018. Led by City Planner Akida Rouzi, City staff members converted one parking space on S. Maple Avenue into a "parklet" with mini-golf, giant Jenga, lemonade and landscaping for one day. The goal of Parking Day is to demonstrate to the public how public space dedicated to cars could be used in other ways. Nearly 80 visitors enjoyed the parklet. The CACT looks forward to supporting the City's continued participation in Parking Day.

Walk and Bike to School Day

The CACT partnered with the Falls Church City School Board's Health and Wellness Committee to promote Walk and Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 9th. Flyers were created and distributed at all 5 schools encouraging students to explore new walking and biking routes to school and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. The CACT hopes to continue to promote this fun event in the years to come.

Bike to Work Day

Once again, the CACT joined City staff to celebrate Bike to Work Day. Despite a rainy day, about 200 riders stopped at the City's pit stop for t-shirts and refreshments. The CACT is grateful to City staff for taking the lead on organizing this annual event.

W&OD Crossings and Dual Trail

The CACT wrote a letter of support for NOVA Parks' proposal to install a dual trail on the W&OD trail through the City and is thrilled this project is moving forward. The CACT would also like to compliment City Staff on procuring a grant to improve the roadway crossings of the W&OD at 4 locations in the City. The CACT has reviewed plans for these crossings in previous years and is eager to see them realized.

20 mph speed limit

At the request of Council, the CACT asked the City Attorney for an opinion on whether the City has the legal authority to lower the speed limit of certain City streets to less than 25 mph. The City Attorney has said that the City *does* have the authority to lower speed limits to 20 mph following an engineering study. The CACT plans to discuss this issue and make recommendations to Council in 2019.

Affordable Living Policy

The CACT wrote a letter to Council endorsing the update to the Affordable Living Policy. The letter noted the relationship of affordable living options to the City's transportation goals, recognizing that people who live near their place of work reduce automobile travel and congestion on City streets.

Neighborhood Pace Car Program

The CACT obtained a \$500 grant from VPIS to print auto decals and pamphlets for the Neighborhood Pace Car Program. Under this program, which we plan to roll out in Fall 2019, volunteers will sign a pledge to drive within the speed limit, stop for pedestrians, drive courteously, and display a Pace Car decal on their vehicles, thereby "setting the pace" and acting as mobile "speed bumps".

Bikeshare rollout

The CACT provided comments to staff on the locations of Bikeshare stations. The CACT has been a strong supporter of Bikeshare and looks forward to the installation of the first Bikeshare stations in spring 2019 and to assisting City staff with spreading the word about the new Bikeshare stations among City residents, employees and students.

Development plan review

The CACT reviewed two major development projects (Founders Row and the Broad and Washington Project) and provided comments to Council. The CACT has commented on pedestrian facilities,

streetscape, parking, site circulation and access and neighborhood impacts. A consistent concern of the CACT is the sidewalk width and clear areas for pedestrians to pass safely.

2018-2019 Goals

- Administer, evaluate and refine the NTC program
- GMHS campus and West End projects
- Walk or Bike to School Day
- Park(ing) Day
- Bike rodeo/TOPS event
- Plan a Scavenger Hunt to showcase City trails, promote walkability
- Recommendations for improving lighting in the City