

BLUEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
Task Force on Arterial Road Sidewalks and Pedestrian Safety

**Meeting Minutes**

January 21, 2012

Two Chef's Pizza

5901 Wilson Boulevard

8:00 – 10:00

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting participants: Eric Goodman, Dan Laredo, David Van Wagner, Sam Ferro, Suzanne Smith Sundburg, Ed Fendley, and Chris Healey

2. Review relevant portions of December BCA Meeting Minutes

Suzanne noted that some minor changes had been made to the relevant portions of the December BCA meeting minutes. Task Force members acknowledged that the purpose of the task force is to explore possibilities for improving the sidewalks on arterial roads in Bluemont.

NOTE: Updated portions of BCA December meeting minutes are attached.

3. Consider proposed Task Force Charter

The Task Force noted that its proper name is *The Task Force on Arterial Road Sidewalks and Pedestrian Safety*. The proposed charter did not properly list the Task Force name.

The Task Force spent considerable time discussing the draft charter and agreed to modify the third goal to read: "allow for the **safe**, orderly flow of bicyclists, motor vehicles, pedestrians, and transit." Addition of the word safe was felt necessary to emphasize the point that safety is the first priority.

The Task Force also noted that the charter addresses Bluemont *arterial* roads. A few examples of arterial roads discussed included Washington Boulevard, Wilson Boulevard, and George Mason Drive. The Task Force agreed that the initial focus of its work will be on those parts of Wilson Boulevard that are within the Bluemont neighborhood.

After significant discussion and consideration, a motion to approve the charter with the amendment noted above, was offered. The motion was seconded and

by vote of the Task Force approved to serve as the governing document for the work of the Task Force.

4. Discuss Task Force scope, objectives and timeline

Task Force members agreed that their objective is to research, explore and evaluate different options for improving pedestrian safety on Bluemont arterial roads. It was noted that the primary objective is not to make a specific recommendation to the BCA Board. Nonetheless, it was agreed that if a consensus proposal for improving pedestrian safety emerges from the research, that the Task Force has the latitude to make such a recommendation.

The Task Force supported the need for transparency of its work and resolved to maintain its meeting agendas and meeting minutes on the BCA website. It also resolved to inform neighboring community groups, local businesses, and any other interested parties of its work.

In accordance with the Charter, Task Force members acknowledged that they should report on their work to the BCA Board in September 2012.

5. Discuss relevant information sources and additional information needs

The Task Force agreed to develop a database of relevant information that would serve as the platform for its research into pedestrian improvement options. Some of the sources of data and information included: VDOT and Arlington County traffic counts for Wilson Boulevard and neighboring roads, Federal Highway Administration documents and information regarding pedestrian safety, sidewalk and safe streets requirements under the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), data on transit and the use of multiuse recreational trails in Bluemont, and the Arlington Arterial Transportation Management Study (ATM). It was noted that Arlington County and Bluemont policies and decisions support multimodal "complete" streets that are safely accessible to bicyclists, motor vehicles, pedestrians, and transit. It was acknowledged that many additional sources of information will be relevant including presentations by experts and interested parties.

The Task Force agreed to have a central repository for as much of the shared information as possible and for this to be linked to the BCA website.

6. Identify Task Force community liaisons

No formal community liaisons were identified but Ed Fendley agreed to reach out to neighboring civic associations to inform them about the work of the Task Force. The importance of informing the Dominion Hills and Boulevard Manor civic associations was particularly noted as they are located directly to the west of Bluemont along Wilson Boulevard. It was also agreed to reach out to various businesses and schools in the Bluemont area with proximity to Wilson Boulevard so that they have the opportunity to be informed about the work of the Task Force.

7. Identify topics for next meeting

Task Force members agreed to conduct research on various elements of pedestrian safety for Wilson Boulevard. Dan Laredo agreed to research the history of Wilson Boulevard. David Van Wagner agreed to research traffic count data. David also agreed to contact the BCA web master Dave Leichtman to explore the possibility of getting a separate page for the Task Force on the BCA site. Sam Ferro agreed to establish a google docs site for a document repository. Suzanne Sunburg offered to research VDOT work on traffic loads in the Arlington area as well as traffic and pedestrian crash data.

8. Adjourn

By motion of the Task Force the meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is February 18, 2012 at 8:00am at Two Chef's Pizza (5901 Wilson Boulevard).