

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

Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2012

Westover Village, 8:00 a.m.

Attending:

Dan Laredo, Suzanne Sundberg, Sandeep Maripuri, Chris Healey, Ed Fendley, Eric Goodman.

Walking Tour of Washington Boulevard and Westover

The group met in Westover Village, and walked down Washington Boulevard to Patrick Henry Drive and back, observing conditions along the way. After the tour, the group met at Toby's Ice Cream in Westover Village to discuss their observations.

It was noted that Washington Boulevard had a number of the design elements of a "Complete Street" including unobstructed sidewalks, planting & utility strips, street trees, bicycle lanes and on-street parking.

The consensus view of the group was that it was felt less risky to walk along Washington Boulevard in comparison to Wilson Boulevard in Bluemont. It was also the view of the group that it felt less risky to cross Washington Boulevard in the Westover Village commercial area, in comparison to the commercial area along Wilson Boulevard in Bluemont. However, it was the consensus view of the group that it was not particularly pleasant or easy to cross Washington Boulevard at unsignalized intersections east of Westover Village. The overall consensus view of the group was that Washington Boulevard provided a more pedestrian-friendly environment than Wilson Boulevard, but that Washington Boulevard was not perfect in that regard.

Public Health and Emergency Vehicle Access

It was noted that complete streets and other infrastructure that encourages biking and walking can reduce dependence of motorized transportation and improve people's health and wellness.

Ed noted that according to Arlington County staff, the Arlington County fire marshal and the Arlington transportation department have developed roadway design standards to ensure emergency vehicle access. Any newly designed or redesigned roads must meet these standards.

Next Meeting Topics / Speakers

Ed noted that the June meeting would feature a guest speaker from the Arlington County Transportation Department.

Conclusion

The Task Force meeting was adjourned until its June 16 meeting at 8:00am at Two Chefs Restaurant.