



DATE: 8/24/2022

TO: Wyatt Shields, City Manager

FROM: Alvaro Astorga, CIP Project Manager

THROUGH: Zak Bradley, Director of Department of Public Works

Ali Khavari, CIP Program Manager

SUBJECT: Park Ave Great Streets Walking Tour, Comment Response

Introduction

The proposed scope of the Park Avenue Great Street project and Downtown POA is to install two midblock crossings, widen sidewalks and remove sidewalk obstructions (including utility lines), adjust intersection geometry, and increase visibility at six crossings/intersections along Park Avenue between North Virginia Avenue and North Washington Street in the City of Falls Church

The project is currently at the 30% design phase. A public walking tour was held on August 1, 2022 to solicit community feedback. This memo summarizes comments received during the walking tour and staff’s responses for how comments will be addressed in advancing to 60% design.

Comment Response

Topic	Questions and Comments	Staff Response
<p>Relocating / Expanding Farmers’ Market on to Park Ave</p>	<p>Why does the Market need to move from City Hall Parking Lot?</p> <p>It will prevent customers to access businesses along Park Ave between Virginia and Little Falls Rd.</p> <p>What is the economic impact of relocating the Farmers Market?</p> <p>Good idea to relocate Farmers Market and utilize the street for something other than cars. Please find ways to not disturb existing businesses and open the street for the Farmers Market on Saturdays.</p>	<p>This has been proposed to alleviate the parking / traffic problems at City Hall / Recreation Center area as Saturday mornings as this is the busiest time for the Recreation Center.</p> <p>No decision has been made to move the market. Before a decision is made it will be discussed with the neighbors.</p>
<p>Tree Canopy and environmental concerns</p>	<p>Will mature trees need to be cut down?</p>	<p>Our goal is to keep all the existing trees, but there may be exceptions based on tree health and utility conflicts (see below). The current design includes the planting of approximately 30 new canopy trees.</p>

	<p>Can you integrate green infrastructure into the design?</p>	<p>We will work with the City Arborist to evaluate the health of each tree. If any of the existing trees are found to be unhealthy and may be of danger to the public, these may be removed. Trees may also be removed if the construction, specifically the undergrounding of the overhead utilities, damages the roots of a tree so extensively that it would not survive.</p> <p>A tree canopy analysis showing the expected shade area of trees to remain, and new trees will be considered in future submissions.</p> <p>Space for green infrastructure devices in the project limits is extremely limited due to existing underground utilities and space required for new undergrounding of overhead utilities. In addition, the comprehensive design needs to balance drainage requirements, avoiding disturbance of existing trees, and providing safety for pedestrians and other modes of transportation. An opportunity exists at the northeast corner of Maple Street and Virginia Avenue. The team will investigate alternatives.</p>
<p>ADA accessibility</p>	<p>Are raised crosswalks ADA accessible?</p> <p>Need accessibility at all cross walks</p> <p>Need accessibility to Cherry Hill Farmhouse</p>	<p>ADA compliance is a design requirement. The intersection at Virginia and Park Ave will be raised, which will create level surfaces for both the Library and Cherry Hill Park providing excellent mobility for wheelchairs and strollers as well as those who are visually impaired. A raised intersection is also being designed for Little Falls and Park Ave. A raised crosswalk is also proposed on Park Avenue at the intersection of Park Avenue and North Washington Street.</p> <p>Additionally, sidewalks will be widened and all existing utility poles within the sidewalk will be removed to create a more accessible, unobstructed walkway.</p>
<p>"Bricks" for sidewalks and cross walks</p>	<p>Bricks are slippery when it rains, on the sidewalks and ADA ramps</p> <p>Bricks are expensive to install, very maintenance intensive and costly to keep up.</p>	<p>The City's streetscape standards (last updated by Council in 2017) detail brick sidewalks and crosswalks.</p> <p>Different materials will be researched to ensure stable footing, durability, and conformance with standards.</p>
<p>Lighting</p>	<p>Will bulb outs be visible at night?</p> <p>Will Park Ave have lights and what type?</p>	<p>Lighting will be added at all intersection to ensure visibility.</p>

		The new lighting will be in compliance with city standards. These new lights will complement the urban environment and replace the existing roadway lights. Current lighting standards provide adequate illumination for both the roadway and the sidewalk.
Traffic Signals and Stop Signs	<p>Will the traffic light be eliminated at Little Falls and Park Ave.?</p> <p>Will the traffic light be added at Maple and Park Ave.?</p> <p>How will "Stop" Signs be enforced as currently both drivers and bicyclists do not obey signs?</p> <p>Educational opportunity to remind people to obey "Stop" signs and other driving rules. For both autos and bicycles.</p>	<p>The traffic signal at Little Falls and Park Ave is being considered to be replaced by a four-way stop sign.</p> <p>A traffic signal is not a consideration at Maple and Park Ave.</p> <p>The City Police Department will be asked to give this area special attention, in the enforcement speed limits and new stop signs</p>
On Street Parking	Will there be any loss of on street Parking?	The design calls for maintaining the same current number of on street parking spaces.
Street Design and Bicycle Facilities	<p>What is a Bicycle Boulevard? What is a SuperSharrow?</p> <p>Will Trucks be able to negotiate bulb outs and narrowed corners?</p> <p>Has a speed bump been considered to slow cars cresting the hill of N Maple Ave?</p> <p>Have there been traffic studies to determine the impact of Park Ave on other streets or the effects of the new developments at either end of Park Ave?</p> <p>Can the double yellow lines on Park be removed?</p> <p>And can the speed be lowered to 10 MPH?</p> <p>Can the entire roadway from Virginia Avenue to Little Falls Street be raised</p>	<p>Park Avenue is being designed as a “bicycle boulevard”. A bicycle boulevard is a low-stress shared roadway bicycle facility, designed to offer priority for bicyclists operating within a roadway shared with motor vehicle traffic.</p> <p>A SuperSharrow has enhanced markings and painted symbols to emphasize the sharing of the road between the motorists and bicyclists.</p> <p>An engineering “auto-turn analysis” will be performed to confirm trucks will be able to negotiate the bulb outs.</p> <p>Double yellows are primarily based on traffic volumes and street widths. Sometimes speeds come into play, but usually only with higher speed limits. Removing the double yellow line is not considered at this time.</p> <p>The raising of the entire roadway, reducing the speed below 20 mph, and using material other than asphalt has been discussed internally – but deemed not feasible at this time. Issues to consider include cost, traffic flow, disturbance to surrounding areas. A flush</p>

	and material other than asphalt be considered?	curb and a valley gutter are included in the design to help raise awareness of the change in the roadway and to provide barrier free environment that is safe for pedestrians and motorists.
Construction Disruption	What will the disruption be and how will it be controlled?	During construction there will be significant disruption but this will be managed through a Maintenance of Traffic Plan.
Traffic Studies	Have there been traffic studies to determine the impact of Park Ave on other streets or the effects of the new developments at either end of Park Ave?	The proposed changes to Park Avenue are not expected to increase traffic on nearby streets. Traffic impacts for development projects are assessed as part of reviewing each project
Shared Parking Facilities	Encourage business and City Leaders to find a way to have shared parking facilities	Council has identified this is a work plan item, and staff regularly engages with business owners about partnership opportunities