

DASH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: October 6, 2022



Welcome

Ross Simons
DASH Advisory Committee Chairperson

Introduced newest committee member Arish Gajjar.

Roll Call

Whitney Code
DASH Marketing & Communications Manager

Focus Group Session

Duke Street BRT Concept Feedback
Jennifer Monaco
Principal Planner, T&ES
City of Alexandria

Jen Monaco provided an overview of the Duke Street BRT project. The presentation concluded with comments/questions from the committee. Sandy commented that the presentation included illustrations that assisted with better understanding the project.

Question from Bonnie: How people will get to the bus stop using the center lane option.

Answer: There would be a crosswalk and intersection for both EB and WB. Pedestrians could be crossing one or two lanes of traffic.

Question from Bonnie: How far apart are the bus stops

Answer: The target is about a ¼ mile, but that will be refined as the process continues.

Question from Bonnie: What can we do to help combat the misinformation and misconceptions from car drivers.

Answer: Please direct people to the social media messaging and would like to distribute flyers, write op-eds, or provide additional suggestions for combatting the misinformation please let us know.

Question from Bonnie: Can you share the benefits of Metroway? Is that a good comparison?

Answer: Metroway doesn't have the ridership that was anticipated and it's still a work in progress. The Line 30 already has the ridership.

Comment from Jim M.: The ridership on Line 30 is very heavy. There was a previously

discussed BRT option that could potentially shift the bus travel lanes during peak hours.

Answer: Based on recent feedback, the decision was to move away from that option.

Question from Arish: Is there any comparative data based on the options presented?

Answer: Yes, there are several studies. A quantitative analysis will be provided on the BRT website.

Question from Arish: What are the challenges of shifting between run options?

Answer: It's pretty standard and DASH staff is comfortable with changes between options.

Questions from Matt: Will 2 lanes of car traffic be maintained in both directions?

Answer: Yes, more details are available on the website.

Question from Matt: When would groundbreaking be?

Answer: 2025

Question from Ross: How many cars are currently going through the corridor, and what is the goal for shifting cars on the corridor?

Answer: That number hasn't been quantified yet. Ridership will be projected further into the project.

Comment from Yvette: Spoke highly of Jennifer's leadership. Yvette added that the project has taken the time to involve the community through outreach.

Comment from Jim D.: Jim expects significant improvement from at least 2/3 of the segment. Jim also detailed some City council discussions and bus stop locations that may impact Duke St. project.

Question from Bonnie: Could you further explain the bi-directional option?

Answer: There would be a bus stop for the bus to hold while another bus uses the bi-directional lane.

Jim proposed a letter from DAC with a general endorsement. Ross interjected that he would like to know DASH's position by having a conversation with DASH staff.

Committee Guideline Discussion

DASH Advisory Committee

Committee held discussion on possible edits to the guidelines. Feedback was noted and included in an email to the General Manager.

Jason requested information on the Lines current committee members ride.

Service Planning Update

Martin Barna

DASH Director of Planning & Marketing

See meeting recording.

Ross asked when the ridership survey results will be available. Martin responded that there were a large number of bots that infiltrated the survey. A preliminary overview will be provided to the Board and will also be provided to the committee. Ross responded with an inquiry about the number of respondents. Martin replied that there are a little under 1,000

responses.

Ross' final question was whether DASH will be operating on the Duke St. BRT. Martin said DASH has been closely working with the BRT project. DASH is interested in pursuing operating on the Duke Street corridor in conditions that best suit the community. By DASH operation metrics, center-running is the gold standard for bus operations.

Matt asked how the electric buses are doing. Martin responded that the 14 electric buses are running well. The performance has been good. There have been some challenges with running in the colder months, but nothing alarming. Solar panels have been discussed but aren't in current plans.

Jim M. asked where ridership counts are coming from. Martin said the policy has changed to all-door boarding about six months ago. The operators are manual counting when passengers enter the buses; however, every bus now has sensors that count passengers as they enter the bus. The information is still being validated, but that is how we are moving forward.

New Business

DAC Vice Chairperson Nomination/Election
2023 DAC Meeting Schedule

Bonnie nominated Jim Durham as Vice Chairperson, seconded by Arish. None opposed.

Wednesday, January 4

Thursday, April 6

Thursday, July 13

Wednesday, October 4

Open Forum

DASH Advisory Committee

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Jim D., seconded by Jason Kunik