Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update

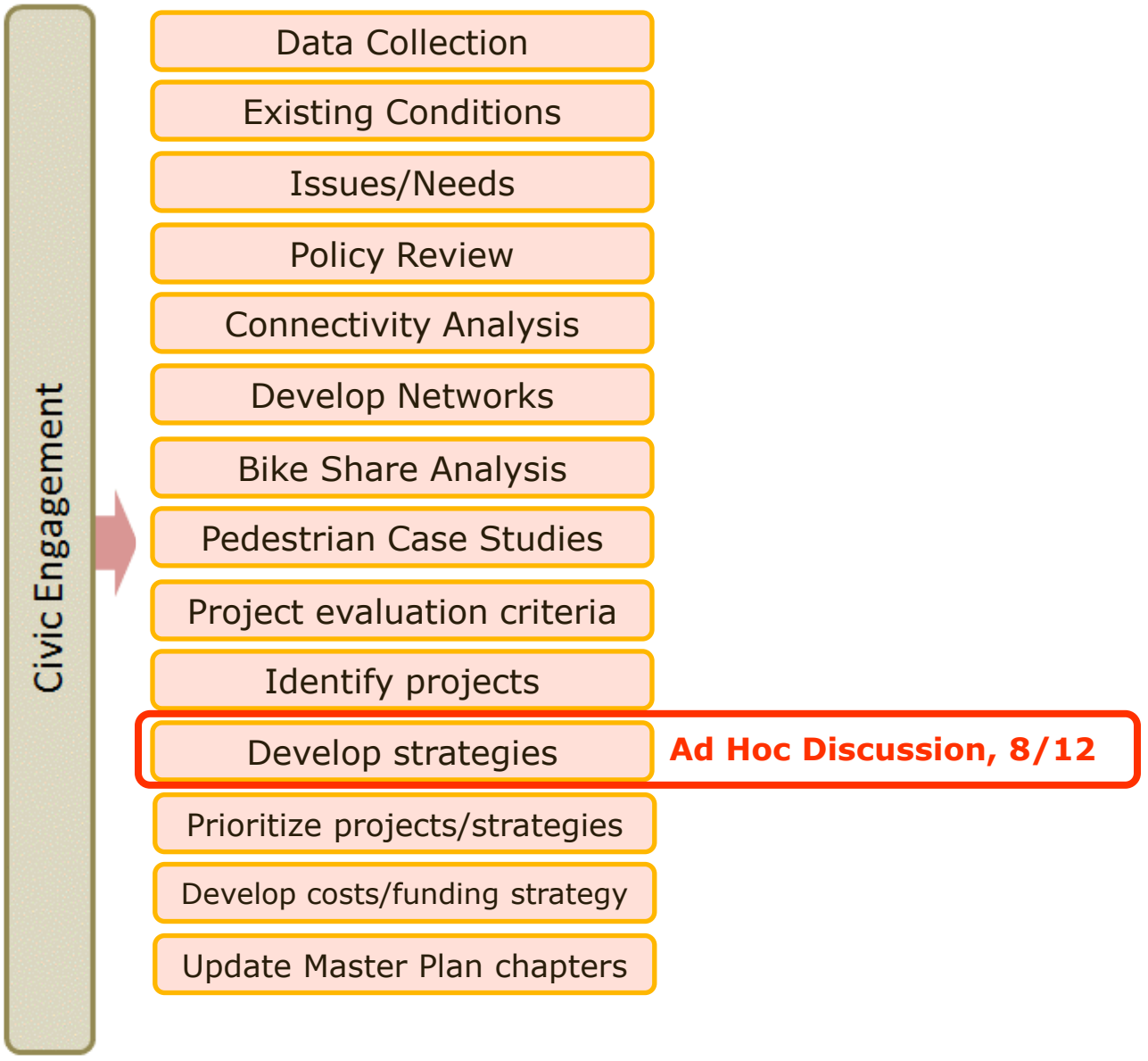
Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

August 12, 2015

Agenda

- Introductions
- Meeting Goals and Schedule
- Draft Program and Policy Strategies
- Public Comment
- Committee Member Updates
- Next Steps

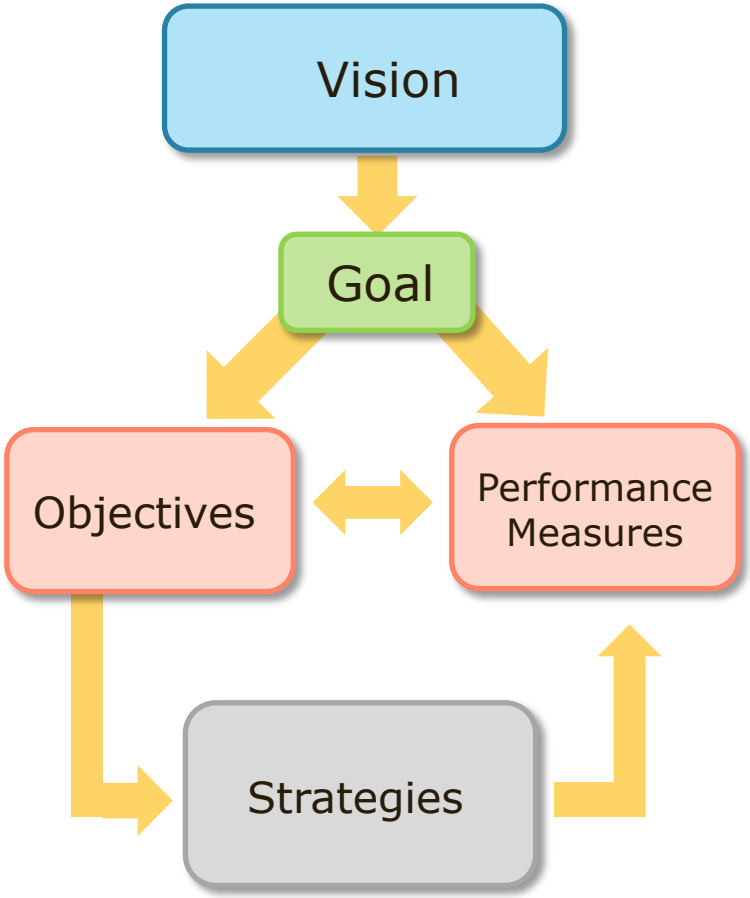
Project Milestones/Tasks



Key Themes from Last Meeting

- Pedestrian Case Studies
  - Safety should be top priority
  - Address conflicts between pedestrians & bicyclists
  - Balancing the needs of different modes in constrained rights of way
  - Consider sight lines in recommendations
- Pedestrian Engineering Strategies
  - Accommodating all modes (including acquiring right of way in constrained areas – e.g. West End Transitway)
  - Manage/mitigate conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists, esp. in Old Town. *Make on-street bicycling the most desirable option*.

Planning Process



Draft Strategies

- Strategies were developed based on:
  - 2008 Transportation Master Plan
  - Ad Hoc Committee and Public input
  - City staff input
  - Case Study Area field work
- Pedestrian
  - Engineering
  - Program and Policy
- Bicycle
  - Engineering
  - Program and Policy

Discussed at June Ad Hoc meeting

Tonight's discussion

Key Strategies for Discussion

1. Maintenance and snow removal of pedestrian and bicycle facilities
2. Improved access and safety for all users on trails; particularly at entrance/exit points
3. Open Streets event pilot
4. Pursue funding to oversee education and outreach for pedestrian/multimodal transportation safety initiatives citywide
5. Partnerships with local bike organizations to reach under-represented groups
6. Partnerships with Health Department and schools
7. Vision Zero
8. Gold Walk Friendly Community/Bicycle Friendly Community designation

Prioritize ongoing maintenance and repair of the bicycle and pedestrian network

- Promote Call-Click-Connect as a means for residents to report maintenance and safety concerns.
- Improve snow removal practices on trails, prioritizing popular commuter trails.
- Work with National Parks Service to formalize a partnership on snow removal of Mt. Vernon Trail.

Pedestrian Strategy: E6
Bicycle Strategy: E6

Improve access and safety for trail users, particularly at entrance and exit points

- Use signage, pavement markings and surface treatments to clarify travel paths at access points
- Remove obstructions that create choke points at trail heads
- Widen access points that carry higher volumes of pedestrian and bicycle traffic
- Wayfinding at access points and key junctions to aid navigation

Pedestrian Strategy: E7 Bicycle Strategy: E3

Explore a pilot Open Streets Event to encourage active transportation and lifestyles

1. Increase education about Complete Streets, health benefits, transportation options and programs in Alexandria

2. Temporarily demonstrate innovative facility designs and let people experience them

Pedestrian Strategy: P4
Bicycle Strategy: P5

Pursue funding to oversee education and outreach for multimodal transportation safety initiatives citywide

- Grants for safety campaigns, staffing and coordination
  - VA Highway Safety Office (402 Grants)
  - DMV Safety Grants
  - VA Safe Routes to School
  - Transportation Alternatives

Norfolk "We Roll Together" Campaign

- Safety
- Encouragement
- Branding
- Videos
- Swag
- Billboards
- Bus ads
- Events

Pedestrian Strategy: P1

Partner with local groups to support bicycle education, outreach and promotion for underrepresented groups

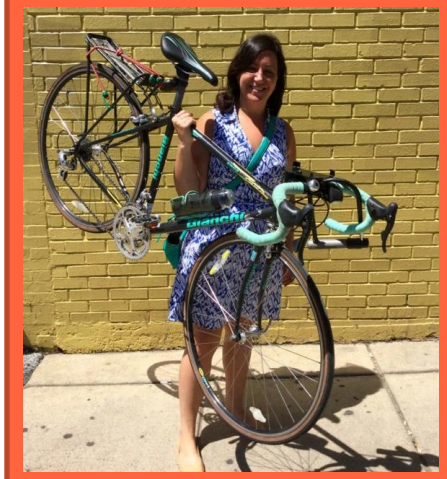
Possible target groups might include:

- Women
- Non-English speaking populations
- Lower income populations

Bicycle Strategy: P12

Example program: WABA Woman & Bicycles

In DC, less than 26% of bicyclists are female.



Program includes:

- **Workshops**
- **Rides**
- **Coffee Clubs**
- **Mentorship**
- **Facebook Forum**

Partner with local groups to support bicycle education, outreach and promotion for underrepresented groups

Example programs:

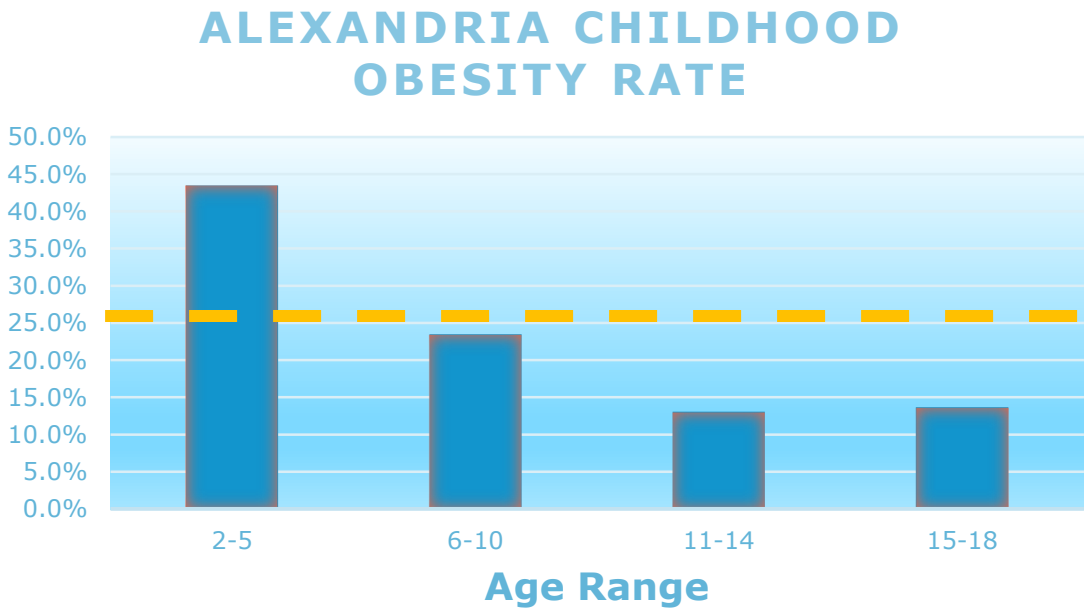
Kansas City Earn-a-Bike Latino Outreach

- Targeted education and engagement in Latino communities
- "The first 100 participants from the Latino community get a free helmet, headlight, tail light and lock!"

FHWA Outreach Materials

Partner with health department and schools to identify funding and prioritize programs related to active transportation and lifestyles

1. Promote active transportation to address obesity
2. Alexandria Healthy Workplace Program
3. Alexandria Childhood Obesity Action Network



Northern VA Average (26.4%)

Pedestrian Strategy: P7
Bicycle Strategy: P9

Partner with health department and schools to identify funding and prioritize programs related to active transportation and lifestyles

1. Promote active transportation to improve student health, classroom behavior, and academic performance
2. Improve safety and reduce congestion
3. Promote Safe Routes to Schools at schools of all grade levels
4. Support bicycle and walking safety skills training

Evaluate traffic fatalities and develop a Vision Zero program

- Program should outline framework, budget and staffing needs
- Goal is to eliminate pedestrian and bicycle related deaths in Alexandria

Pedestrian Strategy: P11

What is Vision Zero?

- New approach to the way we think about safety on our streets
- Origin: 1997 policy in Sweden
- Goal = **zero deaths/serious injuries** by a given date
- 3 main differences from previous approaches:
    1. All traffic fatalities are preventable
    2. Interagency collaboration
    3. Data-based approach

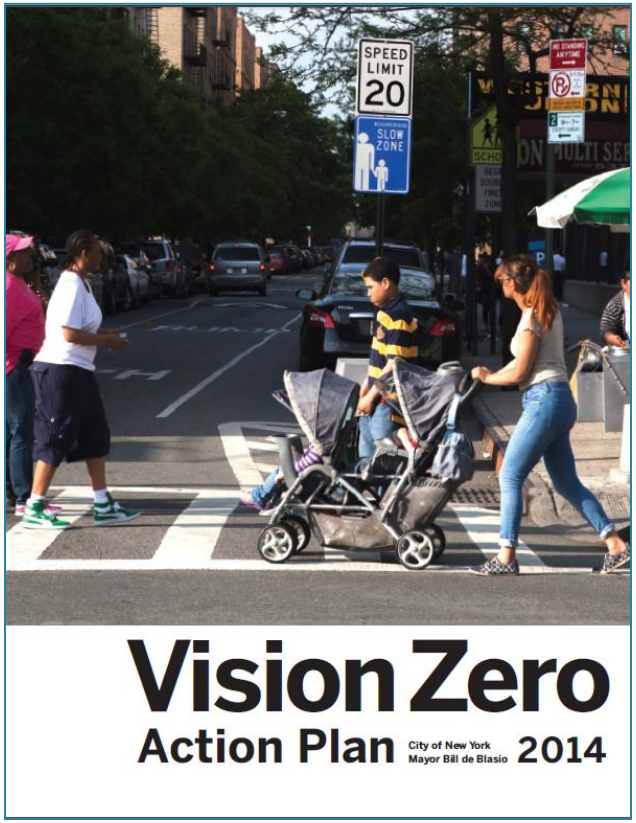
Vision Zero: Public Opinion

A 2014 survey of almost 10,000 drivers found that 86% supported their state adopting Vision Zero policies.

Image: SDOT Flickr

Vision Zero: Larger Cities

- **NYC** – Bill deBlasio committed to VZ during campaign, adopted 2014
  - No commitment on deadline
  - 25 mph citywide speed limit
  - Borough Pedestrian Safety Action Plans
  - $25M TIGER grant for 13 projects
- **San Francisco** – adopted 2014
  - Zero traffic deaths by 2024
  - 24 capital projects by Jan. 2016
  - Ped safety initiatives first
- Other cities following suit: Seattle, Boston, Chicago, Portland, LA, Austin, etc.



Vision Zero in Small to Medium Sized Cities

San Mateo, CA (pop. 101,000)

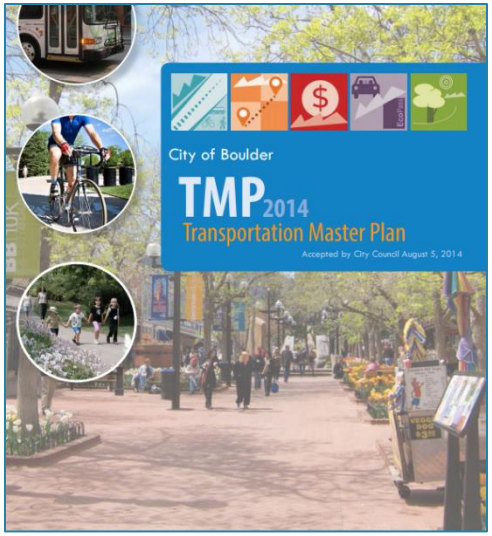
- Sustainable Streets Plan (2015)

"Eliminate pedestrian- and bicycle-related fatalities and reduce the number of non-fatal pedestrian- and bicycle-related collisions by 50% from 2010 levels by 2020."

Boulder, CO (pop. 103,000)

- Transportation Master Plan (2014)
- "Vision Zero Lite"

"The city's ultimate goal is to strive toward zero serious injury and fatal accidents."



Santa Barbara, CA (pop. 90,000)

- City Council approved in May 2015
- Plan being drafted by 2016
- Nonprofit collaboration/leadership (Vision Zero SB)

Strive for GOLD Walk Friendly/Bicycle Friendly Community Designation

- *Walk Friendly Community* Program sponsored by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center
- *Bicycle Friendly Community* Program sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists
- Why?
  - Demonstration of commitment
  - National/regional competitiveness
  - Supports transportation choice for residents, workers and visitors

Pedestrian Strategy: P12
Bicycle Strategy: P15

What does it take?

Walk Friendly Communities

- 1 Platinum (Seattle)
- 15 Gold (inc. Arlington, Charlottesville, DC)
- 14 Silver
- 25 Bronze

- Excellent pedestrian networks
- Maintenance practices
- Mode share goals
- Supportive laws and policies
- Education/encouragement programs
- Pedestrian advocacy organization and committee
- Enforcement programs

Bike Friendly Communities

- 4 Platinum (Fort Collins, Portland)
- 21 Gold (inc. Madison, Seattle, Durango)
- 73 Silver
- 250 Bronze

- Excellent bicycle infrastructure
- Education programs - learn to ride, safety, rules of the road
- Incentives and programs that encourage bicycling
- Supportive laws and policies
- Process to evaluate progress and inform future improvements

Committee Discussion

Are there any key engineering, program and policy issues that have not been addressed through the draft strategies?

Public Comment

Committee Member Updates

Next Steps

- Late May 2014: **Project Launch**
- June - Sept: **Existing Conditions Analysis, Public Meeting #1**
- Sept - Dec: **Needs Assessment, Goals & Objectives**
- Jan – June 2015: **Strategies, Network, Focus Areas**
- Early Spring 2015: **Ad Hoc Meeting #5**
- Mid Spring 2015: **Ad Hoc Meeting #6**
- Summer 2015: **Ad Hoc Meeting #7 / #8**
- Early Fall 2015: **Public Meeting #2**
- Fall 2015: **Ad Hoc Meeting #9**
- Winter 2015: **Draft Plan and Guidelines**
- Winter 2015: **Ad Hoc Meeting #10**
- Spring 2016: **Completion**

Upcoming Outreach (Tentative)

- August
  - Outreach at community events (e.g. First Thursday)
  - Ad Hoc Meeting #8
- September
  - Public Meeting (September 24)
- October
  - Planning/Transportation Commission
- November
  - ACPS – School Board
  - BPAC
  - Environmental Policy Commission/Park and Recreation Commission
  - Ad Hoc Meeting # 9
- January
  - Draft Plan Published
  - Alexandria Engage
  - Ad Hoc Meeting # 10
- March
  - Revised Plan
  - Planning/Transportation Commission
- April
  - City Council Approval

Thank You!

www.alexandriava.gov/pedbikeplan