



10 Feb 2023

The City of Alexandria
Duke Street Mobility Commission

To: Duke Street in Motion Advisory Group
CC: City Council Members

This letter supports implementation of pedestrian and bicycle curb features along Duke Street. Improved pedestrian facilities will improve the safety of roadway users, create a vibrant and enjoyable experience for people on Duke Street, and support sustainable bus rapid transit along the corridor. The curb features are a vital design element to the success of the Duke Street in Motion project and the proposed bus rapid transit corridor. We urge the City of Alexandria to implement safe, comfortable, and enjoyable pedestrian and bicycle features from the West End to King Street Metro.

Safety

Improving safety along Duke Street is vital to the success of Duke Street in Motion. Presently, Duke Street is one of the most dangerous streets within the City. It is unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists, and people avoid traveling along the corridor. However, the Advisory Group has the opportunity to plan for pedestrian and bike features that will keep all roadway users safe along this corridor. We urge the Advisory Group to ensure that sidewalks are widened, hardened buffers are introduced to separate vehicles from other users, and transit stops are safe, visible, and comfortable to users.

Vibrancy

Beautiful and well-designed curb features will help ensure economic vibrancy along the Duke Street corridor. Many studies have shown that support for and investment in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure results in economic benefits for individuals, businesses, and communities. Good pedestrian and bicyclist features are also simply more beautiful for all roadway users. Better streets attract more people and more activity, thus strengthening both communities, the businesses that serve them and the city's economy as a whole. The Advisory Group has the chance to improve the beauty and economic vitality along Duke Street from King Street Metro to the West End.

Sustainability

Comfortable pedestrian and public transit facilities are an important element to the success of a sustainable bus rapid transit route on Duke Street. Transit users will avoid the bus rapid transit if the pedestrian features and amenities are ignored, because they simply will not feel comfortable during even brief waits at transit stops. This would, in turn, reduce the sustainability benefits of increased ridership which the City is pursuing through this project. Failure to achieve a comfortable environment would undermine sustainability from the start.

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Walkable pedestrian, bike, and transit facilities will help make the City of Alexandria sustainable. Walkable corridors are associated with reduced noise pollution, reduced vehicle emissions, and improved health outcomes. These curb features are vital to achieving a sustainable environment in the present and for the future.

Imagine Duke Street as a place that invites pedestrians and bicyclists to spend time. A place that people want to spend time, because it is an interesting place to travel, to shop, or to exercise. By being proactive in our vision for the curb features, we can ensure that the vision for Duke Street in Motion is achieved with safe, vibrant, and sustainable pedestrian, transit, and bicycle facilities. AFSS urges the Advisory Group to purposefully achieve the goals of Duke Street in Motion and support a project that will invite users to Duke Street instead of scaring them away.

Sincerely,
Dane Lauritzen, Board Member
On behalf of Alexandria Families for Safe Street Board of Directors

CC: Mike Doyle