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The Council Connection

your connection to City Council by:

Mayor Justin M. Wilson

Alexandria, Virginia

August 1, 2019

In This Edition

[Council Initiatives](#)

[July 8th Flooding](#)

[Metro Shutdown Update](#)

[Road Paving](#)

[Metro's New Office in Alexandria](#)

[Surplus City Property](#)

[Parking Enforcement](#)

[Host a Town Hall](#)

[Upcoming Issues: Guns, Scooters, Blue/Orange/Silver Line & Mobility Plan](#)

Quick Links

[E-Mail Me](#)

[Past Newsletters](#)

[City of Alexandria Website](#)

[Pay City Taxes Online](#)

[Review Real Estate Assessments](#)

[Crime Mapping & Statistics](#)

[Call.Click.Connect](#) (Submit Service Requests to City Agencies)

[Board & Commission Vacancies](#)

[Alexandria Health Department Restaurant Inspections](#)

[Report Potholes](#)

[Schedule Child Safety Seat Inspection](#)

With a month left in the summer for most Alexandria students, the students at [Samuel Tucker Elementary](#) head back to school today. It is the 20th school year for the Tucker building.

Best wishes to the Tucker students, faculty, and support staff for an incredible year!

Tuesday evening (August 6th) is National Night Out. This annual event will be recognized [in parties all across our City](#), as our Public Safety agencies fan out to help celebrate the community collaboration that keeps our neighborhoods safe and vibrant.

I'll be working to cover as many parties as possible, and I hope to see you in your neighborhood.

[Contact me anytime](#). Let me know how I can help.

Council Initiatives

July 8th Flooding

On July 8th, an unprecedented rain event affected the entire region with significant impacts on the City. [The equivalent of a month's worth of rain fell in one hour](#). This volume inundated our City's stormwater sewers, and caused flash flooding and sewer backflow in many areas of the City.

Intersections, streets, and parking garages flooded. Our Fire Department was called upon to conduct rescues of drivers who became stranded. The City was lucky to not experience any serious injuries or loss of life.



[Smoke Detector Installation Request](#)

[Real Estate Tax Receipt Calculator](#)

[License Your Dog or Cat](#)

[Report a Street Light Outage](#)

Events/Updates

Friendship Fire Festival Saturday!

[On Saturday from 9 AM until 2 PM, the annual Friendship Fire Festival returns to the 100 block of South Alfred Street in Old Town.](#)

Celebrating the founding of the historic Friendship Firehouse in 1774, this festival is a great event for residents and visitors of all ages!

Sales Tax Holiday This Weekend!

In the past, the Commonwealth of Virginia had three separate sales tax holidays: one for back to school time, one for hurricane preparedness, and one for Energy Star efficient appliances.

[A few years ago, the three sales tax holidays were combined and this year will be held concurrently from August 2 - 4.](#)

Use the opportunity to shop at some wonderful Alexandria businesses and enjoy the tax discount!

FutureHaus

[Fresh off its win in Dubai at the Solar Decathalon, FutureHaus is now set up in Potomac Yard!](#)

This futuristic home was designed by the Virginia Tech Center for Design Research and is now at 2602 Main Line Boulevard.

Tours will be conducted

At the end of last month, [the Council held a special meeting to confirm the City Manager's declaration of a local emergency](#). With this declaration, our staff is working with the [Virginia Department of Emergency Management](#) to determine what Federal or State assistance might be available for our residents and businesses that were impacted by this highly unusual storm. [You can watch the staff presentation regarding the storm's impacts from the special meeting.](#)



For those impacted by sewage backflow, [the City has extended our assistance program designed to support property owners seeking to install a backflow preventer.](#)

If you are interested in assessing your risk or purchasing flood insurance, [the website of the Federal Emergency Management Administration can assist. The City is one of two jurisdictions in Virginia with a Class 6 rating under the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System program](#), enabling the largest discounts for our residents purchasing the insurance. Any property owner in the City can purchase flood insurance.

Our staff will be conducting a full after-action review of this incident, and will look at what can be done to improve the City's resiliency in the face of these extreme events. Climate change increases the frequency of extreme weather events. Our pursuit of climate resiliency may require new and larger investments in infrastructure in the future.

Metro Shutdown Halfway Done

We have now passed the halfway point in this summer's Metro shutdown. This has been a challenging period for our City and its residents, our visitors, and our businesses and their employees.

[Last week we released our report on the shutdown so far.](#)

While riders are settling into new routines, there are still challenges impacting our City. The shuttle buses have had issues with capacity and traffic flow. Some Metro Bus and DASH routes have had similar problems as well. Traffic impacts have exacerbated existing congestion. Some businesses have seen reductions in revenue.

The shuttle system has carried over a million passengers so far. Metrobus ridership is up 30%. The two DASH routes serving the Pentagon have seen 14-15% ridership increases. The water taxis are carrying 819 passengers per day. Parking garage utilization in Old Town is up 12%.

The work itself has been progressing on schedule. [In June, Metro announced the elimination of the "hump" in the platform at the Braddock Road station.](#) Last week Metro [announced some of the improvements that will be in place](#) when the stations reopen.

While the past two months have not been without challenge, so far the mitigation put in place by WMATA, the City and our regional and private partners have allowed for residents, visitors and our businesses to continue somewhat normal, albeit delayed, operations.

The City [has posted summaries of the early weeks, as well as traffic cameras and traffic sensor data for review by the public](#).

until August 16th. Tours are available on Thursdays and Saturdays from 11 AM until 5 PM and Fridays and Sundays from 11 AM until 8 PM.

Irish Festival

[On Saturday August 24th from 11 AM until 7 PM, the Ballyshanners host the Alexandria Irish Festival.](#)

Held in Waterfront Park at 1A Prince Street, the festival includes entertainment, food and family fun!

Sidewalk Sale!

[On Saturday and Sunday, August 10th and 11th, the 10th Annual Alexandria Sidewalk Sale returns to Old Town and Del Ray.](#)

With over 50 boutiques participating and offering deeply discounted summer merchandise, this is a great opportunity to shop local!

Parking in Old Town at the meters will be free all day Saturday and Sunday. Parking in Del Ray is always free.

I'll see you there!

Energy Masters

Energy Masters are trained volunteers who conduct community education in energy efficiency and water conservation techniques.

These volunteers help our residents save money and help our planet.

The 2019-2020 program is now enrolling for the training class that begins in October.

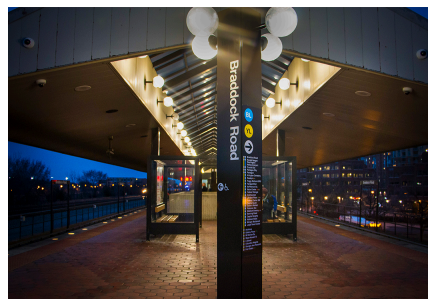
[Learn more and sign up today!](#)

Restaurant Week

Give your kitchen a break. It's time to dine out in Alexandria.

The mitigation plan for the closures relies on four pillars:

- [WMATA service \(shuttles and expansions of existing bus service\)](#)
- City/DASH alternatives
- Mobility alternatives (transportation network companies and transit modifications)
- Communication and outreach



The bedrock of this plan is the WMATA shuttles and service expansion. These shuttles are running 5 minute headways (intervals) during peak periods and WMATA has now sized them to accommodate 97% of the typical "peak of the peak" ridership through the corridor.

While the shuttle network is designed to carry the bulk of the ridership, I would encourage residents to examine existing bus service options that serve their neighborhood and can allow you to get around the closure.

We will continue to make adjustments throughout the closure period.

The work to restore Metro back to the level required to support this region continues. In the short-term, additional sacrifice will be required. As a daily Metro rider myself, I know the service challenges first-hand. I'm optimistic that these efforts will result in a more reliable system for Alexandria and the entire region.

Road Paving

On Monday, the City's road paving season began, as our contractors began repaving Wilkes Street, Fairfax Street, Royal Street, West Rosemont Avenue and Cedar Street.

The City Council's adopted capital improvement program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020) continues a multi-year effort to address the condition of the City's roads. [The approved budget includes \\$5.5 million to pave 55 lane miles of roads around our City.](#) This is the most ever.

The City has 561 lane miles of roads for which it is responsible. Every 3 years, our Transportation and Environmental Services



Department assesses every street in the City [assigning each a Pavement Condition Inventory \(PCI\) score.](#) Based on that score and available resources, our paving plan for each year is formulated.

The City will be conducting a new survey this year, which will prompt revisions to this schedule.

Including the money budgeted for Fiscal Year 2020, the proposed budget includes \$51 million for road paving over the next decade.

We are scheduled to resurface the following roads this fiscal year:

- Bishop Lane from North Quaker Lane to End
- Colvin Street from Roth Street to South Quaker Lane
- Commonwealth Avenue from Braddock Road to King Street
- Dartmouth Road from Crown View to Cloverway Drive
- East Abingdon Drive from Second Street to Slaters Lane

[Beginning August 16th through August 25th, Alexandria's Summer Restaurant Week is back!](#)

With 60+ Alexandria restaurants participating, you can obtain a three-course meal for one or dinner for two for \$35.

REVIVE Training

[Twice a month the City offers free training to residents seeking to learn how to spot and reverse an opioid overdose.](#)

No RSVP is required, and attendees receive a free medical kit upon completion.

Help become a lifesaver in our community!

Play Space Survey

We want your opinion as we work to design new play space for children in our community.

[Please complete the 2019 Play Space survey online!](#)

Half Day Citizens Police Academy

The Alexandria Police Department is continuing the new "Half Day Summer Citizens Police Academy."

Building on the success of the 10 week Citizens Police Academy, this program provides an abbreviated half-day session to learn about the inner workings of the Alexandria Police Department.

[Sign up online!](#)

Census Jobs

As part of the preparation for the 2020 Decennial Census, the United States Census Bureau is already hiring in our area.

Click [here](#) or [here](#) to review the various jobs listed for hiring.

- East Reed Avenue from Commonwealth Avenue to Richmond Highway
- East Rosemont Avenue from Commonwealth Avenue to End
- Eisenhower Avenue from Mill Road to Holland Lane
- High Street from West Braddock Road to Russell Road
- North Howard Street from North Jordan Street to West Braddock Road
- Jasper Place from South Jenkins Street to End
- King Street from Callahan Drive to Daingerfield Road
- Mansion Drive from Virginia Avenue to Russell Road
- Mark Drive
- Mount Vernon Avenue from East Rosemont Avenue to Southern End
- North Donelson Street from Duke Street to End (Edge Mill only)
- North Fairfax Street from King Street to Third Street
- North Pegram Street from Holmes Run Parkway to North Pickett Street
- North Pitt Street from Oronoco Street to King Street
- North Union Street from King Street to End
- Norwood Place from Cameron Mills Road to End
- Polk Avenue from North Pegasus Street to North Pelham Street
- Powhatan Street from Washington Street to Slaters Lane
- Roth Street from Duke Street to Business Center Drive
- South Fairfax Street from Prince Street to End 34
- South Jenkins Street from Venable Avenue to Holmes Run Parkway
- South Union Street from King Street to Jefferson Street
- Stonewall Road from West Braddock Road to High Street
- Taney Avenue from North Early Street to North Gordon Street (Edge Mill only)
- Valley Drive from Martha Custis Drive to Gunston Road
- Vermont Avenue from South Gordon Street to S Jenkins St
- Virginia Avenue from Ridge Road Drive to End
- Wilkes Street from South Columbus Street to South Lee Street
- West Abingdon Street from Second Street to End
- West Reed Avenue from Mount Vernon Avenue to Commonwealth Avenue
- West Rosemont Avenue from Commonwealth Avenue to King Street
- CityWide Alley Resurfacing

For Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021), we are scheduled to resurface the following roads:

- Duke St from S Patrick St to Strand St
- Hume Ave. from Mount Vernon Ave. to Richmond Hwy.
- N Floyd St from Duke St to N French St
- Fendall Ave from Duke St to S Floyd St
- Wellington Rd from Beverley Dr to Chalfonte Dr
- Bryan St. from W. Taylor Run Pkwy. To Dead End
- Fillmore Ave. from Cul-de-sac to Seminary Rd
- Farm Rd. from Beverley Dr to Circle Terr
- N Gladden St & N Grayson St from Uline Ave to Uline Ave
- Tulsa Place from N Gordon to cul-de-sac
- Uline Ave from N Gordon St to N Furman St
- West Street from Duke St to Wythe St
- Skyhill Rd. from Janney's Ln. to Dead End
- Daingerfield - Entire Length
- Morgan St from N Chambliss St to Circular Parking space
- N/S Alfred St. from First St. to Church St.
- Reading Ave from Rayburn Ave To N Beauregard St
- Rayburn Ave from N Beauregard St to Reading Ave
- Lomack St from cul-de-sac to Dead-end
- S Iris from Venable Ave to Vermont Ave
- S French St from Duke St to cul-de-sac
- Cameron Mills Rd from Virginia Ave to Allison St
- N Howard St from Raleigh Ave to W Braddock Rd

Thanks for joining our effort to ensure a full and complete count!

Youth Leadership

Do you know any incoming 9th - 12th graders that demonstrate strong leadership skills, show potential to be great leaders or who are passionate about making a difference in the community?

Nominate them for this summer's 2019 Youth Leadership Conference, hosted by the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria!

This **free** conference for incoming 9th - 12th graders runs from **August 12-14**.

The second day of the conference includes an afternoon networking session with youth leadership opportunities in Alexandria. There is also a bonus day featuring opportunities to get involved in City-wide planning efforts, build your legacy in Alexandria by tackling issues that affect Alexandrians and continue networking with local decision-makers.

Adults are highly encouraged to nominate youth for this opportunity [using this link](#).

Youth interesting in applying to participate should [follow this link](#).

Mason Speakers

Is your club or organization interested in having a speaker?

The George Mason University speakers program is comprised of over 100 faculty and staff who provide lectures and guest presentations on hundreds of topics to

• Moncure Dr from S View Terr to Hilton St (Base failure)
 • Marlboro Dr. - Entire Length
 • Diagonal - Entire Length
 • Mt Vernon Ave from Hume Ave to East Braddock Rd
 For Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022), we are scheduled to resurface the following roads:

- Executive Ave from W Glebe Rd to Mount Vernon Avenue
- Kentucky Ave from Old Dominion Bv to Russell Rd
- Alabama Ave from Kentucky Ave to Carolina Pl
- Beverley Drive from Russell Rd to Washington Circle
- Allison St. Entire Length
- Echols Ave from Seminary Rd to Dead-End
- Burgess Ave (All of it)
- Aspen Street from Landover St to Mosby St
- Guthrie Ave from Landover St to Mosby St
- Mosby Street from Aspen St to West Mt Ida Ave
- Holly St from Aspen St to West Mt Ida Ave
- Birch St from Holly St to Russell Rd
- Pine Street from Holly St to Russell Rd
- Evans Lane from Richmond Hwy to Reed Ave
- Lynhaven Drive from Richmond Hwy to Evans Ln
- Montrose Ave from Raymond Ave to Richmond Hwy
- Stewart Ave from Mt Vernon Ave to Randolph Hwy
- Anderson Lane from Windsor Ave to Richards Ln
- Richards Lane from Anderson Ln to W Windsor Ave
- North Garland St from Ft Worth Ave to Cul De Sac
- Richenbacher Ave. from N. Van Dorn St. to N. Pickett St.
- Holmes Run Pkwy. From Van Dorn to Dead End
- Lowell Ave from N Chambliss St to cul-de-sac
- S Gordon from Duke St to Wheeler Ave
- Venable Ave - Entire Length
- Underwood Place from Ingram St to cul-de-sac
- Cathedral Dr - Entire Length
- Benning Ct from N Chambliss St to Dead-end
- S Ingram St from Duke St to Vermont Ave
- Holmes Run Pkwy from S Jordan St to S Jenkins St
- South View Ter from E Taylor Run Pkwy to Hilltop Ter
- N & S Washington Street from First St to Church St
- Jupiter Place from N Jordan St to Cul de sac
- Greenwood Place from Seminary Rd to Circle
- Knox Place (all of it)
- Rutland Place from N Pickett St to Cul de sac
- E&W Nelson Ave from Russell Rd to Leslie Ave
- George Mason Place from Monticello Bv to Cul de sac
- Terrett Ave from E Mt Ida to E Randolph Ave
- Usher Avenue
- W. Taylor Run Pkwy from Duke St. to Janney's Lane
- Colfax Ave from Seminary Rd to N Rosser St
- North Early Street from W Braddock Rd to Cul-de-sac
- Fort Ward Pl. - Entire Length
- Ellicott St. - Entire Length
- Jewell Court & Anderson Court from N Chambliss St to cul-de-sac
- N & S Saint Asaph St from First St to Dead-end
- Crown View Dr. from Clover Way to Dartmouth Rd.

We continue to play "catch up" throughout the City from deferred road maintenance during the worst of the Recession.

I'm hopeful we can continue (and hopefully increase) these investments in this very basic infrastructure.

Metro's New Office Comes to Alexandria

It has not been an easy decade for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the region's transit agency. A generation of under-investment, management challenges, and

organizations and businesses free of charge.

[Available speakers can be reviewed and reserved online!](#)

occasionally neglect have led to serious safety incidents, service degradation and financial challenges.

But slowly, the system has been working to turn the corner. One area of significant focus has been the financial health of the authority. With three "states," numerous local governments, the Federal government and hundreds of thousands of riders providing the financial support for WMATA, finding a sustainable funding formula has been a challenge from the authority's founding.

[Last year, a significant milestone was achieved as the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia came to agreement on \\$500 million of annual dedicated funding to support the system.](#)



Artist's concept of future Hoffman Town Center

While the dedicated funding will go a long way to addressing the core infrastructure issues within WMATA, it does not end Metro's financial woes. To place the authority on better footing, WMATA has looked at all of its real estate holdings to determine the best use of

those assets in the future.

[Earlier this year, WMATA placed their headquarters property, located next to the Capital One Arena near Gallery Place, on the market for redevelopment.](#) The building has been the headquarters of the authority for 40 years, but it is an extremely valuable property and can be more lucrative in other use.

As part of a plan to save taxpayers over \$130 million over the next 20 years, WMATA is consolidating from 10 buildings down to 7. As part of this process, WMATA decided to replace the existing headquarters property with smaller office buildings in DC, Maryland and Virginia.

[In April, WMATA announced that the Virginia location would be on a piece of property that they already own in the City of Alexandria on Mill Road in the Carlyle neighborhood of our City.](#) This building will host nearly 1,000 employees, on a parcel that was largely fallow, in a rapidly growing section of our City.

Last month, [WMATA came before the Council seeking land-use approval for the construction of this new building.](#) Ultimately City Council approved this application by a vote of 4-3, and WMATA will proceed with constructing this new headquarters in our City.

I am excited WMATA has chosen this investment for our community, and it helps support the balance of residential and commercial uses that we are seeking in this growing portion of our community.

Surplus City Property

In 2007, a blue ribbon commission of residents and business leaders in Alexandria, formally known as the "Mayor's Economic Sustainability Work Group," [made their report to the City Council](#) .

One component of their report related to City-owned properties. The report urged that the City create a good accounting of the property we own and dispose of properties that were no longer required to provide municipal services.

After adopting this recommendation, the City hired the national real estate firm Jones, Lang, Lasalle to perform such a review. The review looked at the full inventory of 300+ properties owned by the

City. These properties ranged from tiny slivers of land that were completely inaccessible to large multi-block tracts.

The Jones, Lang, Lasalle review [led to a series of recommendations for the Council to pursue](#). They made specific recommendations of properties to dispose of. They also made recommendations of properties that could be reused for other purposes.

In 2009, the Council adopted these recommendations and began to pursue disposition of the properties that were designated as surplus.

Last week, the City Council approved the sale of the last of the identified properties.

All of the properties are listed below with their disposition:

401 E. Braddock Road (corner of Braddock & Mount Vernon Avenue): This was sold in 2011 for \$280,500.

716 - 718 N. Columbus Street (former residential care home): This was sold in 2012 for \$662,000.

3600 Jefferson Davis Highway (corner of Jefferson Davis & Reed): This was transferred to AHC Inc. (an affordable housing non-profit) to support a new affordable housing development.

200 N. Royal Street (Elder Crafters): This was sold in 2013 for \$1,250,000.

509 N. St. Asaph Street (old Health Department building): This was sold in 2014 for \$5,230,000.

1505 Powhatan Street (corner of Powhatan & Slaters Lane): This was sold in 2014 for \$4,400,000.

0 Prince Street (Beachcomber Restaurant): This was exchanged in 2014 as part of the land swap with the Old Dominion Boat Club.

912, 916, 920 King Street (King at S. Patrick): Two years ago, [the City Council bundled these properties with 116 S. Henry Street \(an existing parking lot\) and bundled them for sale](#).

[After a competitive solicitation, the City Council voted 5-2 to enter into a contingent agreement to sell the properties for \\$5.3 million.](#)



This transaction required developer replacement of the existing public parking. Once these properties are redeveloped, they are estimated to generate \$340,000 annually in real estate tax revenue.

The net proceeds from the completed sales have generated over \$17 million of one-time funds that we have used to fund our Capital Improvement Program. Beyond that, these sales have taken properties that were non-taxable and placed them on the tax rolls, easing the tax burden on residents and business owners throughout our City.

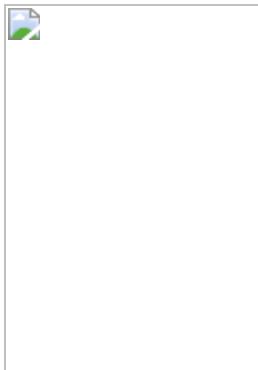
Fixing Parking Enforcement

There is a saying in municipal policy-making: "It's always about parking." Nearly every controversial issue in local government somehow connects to parking.

Generally speaking, unless they have recently received a parking ticket, residents tend to advocate for increased parking enforcement to ensure on-street parking spaces are fairly administered. In recent

years, residents frequently contact me concerned about a lack of parking enforcement. In this case, the anecdotal is the reality.

From 2016 to 2017, parking ticket revenue in Alexandria dropped by nearly 6%. From 2017 to 2018, it dropped again by about 2%. From 2018 to 2019, the revenue dropped precipitously by nearly 19%.



This steady decrease led to considerable alarm by the City Council over the last few years, and the City's Office of Performance and Accountability (OPA) was called in to perform an assessment of the drop in revenue.

Last month [OPA released its report on the issue](#), and the [City Manager provided his action plan](#) for addressing the challenges.

The report revealed two primary causes of the decline:

- Lower staffing of parking enforcement officers (PEO) due to chronic turnover
- Less tickets written per PEO, largely due to PEOs being assigned to non-enforcement efforts.

With the culprit identified, the City Manager is making several adjustments to address these challenges:

- A pay increase for PEOs to ensure competitive compensation
- An increase in the number of PEOs
- Addressing school crossing guard staffing, which has frequently taken PEOs away from their work
- More efficient utilization of patrol resources from the Police Department to address some parking complaints.

Parking enforcement is conducted to ensure the fair use of on-street parking. Arriving at an appropriate level of enforce will help our residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Host a Town Hall in Your Living Room!

As Mayor, I am continuing my regular series of Town Hall Meetings.



You supply the living room and a bunch of your friends and neighbors. I will supply the Mayor who will hopefully have the answers to any of your questions about our City.

Just [drop us a line](#) and we'll get a Town Hall on the calendar! Thanks for the interest!

Upcoming Issues

Gun Safety

In the late 1990s the City of Alexandria had a ban in place on firearms being carried within public facilities (recreation centers, libraries, City Hall, etc). The administrative regulation survived court challenge in 1999.

Fearful that other jurisdictions would adopt similar legislation, [the General Assembly passed legislation during the 2002 General Assembly session that specifically prohibited the type of restriction that had been in place in Alexandria](#). Unfortunately, the legislation was [signed into law](#) by then-Governor Mark Warner and it [remains in the Code of Virginia today](#).

Fast forward 17 years, [Governor Ralph Northam called a special session of the General Assembly](#) to consider legislation in the aftermath of the tragic mass murder at a Virginia Beach government building.

[Among the bills being proposed for consideration during the July 9th Special Session was legislation that would allow the City to adopt an ordinance regulating firearms in municipal facilities.](#)

In anticipation of enactment of this legislation, the Alexandria City Council [unanimously advanced a local ordinance that would ban firearms from our city facilities.](#)

While the General Assembly chose to adjourn rather than consider any of the legislation proposed in the special session, the City Council will be holding a public hearing on the proposed ordinance at our September 14th Public Hearing.

This ordinance cannot go into effect until the General Assembly enacts enabling legislation.

I do not believe that firearms have a place in City facilities, except in the hands of our public safety personnel.

I'm hopeful that the General Assembly will enact legislation during the 2020 session to restore control of such a basic decision, to local communities and their elected leaders.

Scooters

We have made it halfway through the City's pilot "dockless mobility" program. According to the input I have received, the scooters have either destroyed our City as we know it, or are a welcome transportation alternative. To attempt to provide a factual basis to the discussion, [our staff just released a report marking the halfway point.](#)

Disruptive technologies have been especially "disruptive" to local government. Whether it's Uber and Lyft or food trucks, when these new businesses come to municipalities, they typically proceed laws that govern their use,

This was undoubtedly true when dockless scooters began showing up in Alexandria last year. After some discussion with our regional neighbors and community engagement, the Council approved a 9-month pilot program back in November.

The pilot program required each company to execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City. [This agreement imposed rules and requirements on the companies and their customers.](#) This pilot program was designed to help the City determine if these devices have a place in our City.

The pilot was slow to get started, but today there are seven companies who have executed the MOU with the City, each allowed to operate 200 scooters in our City. As of the end of May, over 100,000 trips have been taken that either begin or end in the City of Alexandria. A full 65% of those trips have taken place in Old Town. There are over 18,000 registered users across all of the companies.

The City Council has heard a substantial amount of input on these dockless scooters from many residents in our community. While there is certainly support for these devices being in our community, I have heard significant concerns about scooters blocking sidewalks, being operated on sidewalks, the aesthetics of the devices, riders without helmets, scooters creating accessibility issues, and general concerns about enforcement.

The legal landscape is also changing rapidly. The General Assembly has adopted new legislation, with some laws already enacted and others going into effect at the end of this year.



The City has made adjustments to try to address some of the most significant concerns we have heard.

Last month, the City began creating new "corrals" in 13 locations in Old Town, designed as an on-street space for dockless scooters and bikes to be placed so that they do not obstruct private property.

[The City also recently worked with the companies to implement "geofencing" areas where scooters are disallowed](#) by the device

technology.

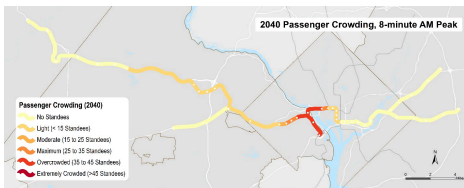
There is no question that these devices have brought challenges to our streets and sidewalks. There is also no question that numerous residents and visitors find these devices useful and valuable in their daily lives. Neither fact can be discounted as we move forward in determining the role for these devices in the City's future.

Metro's Blue/Orange/Silver Lines

Exactly five years ago, [MetroRail's Silver Line](#) service began. With the completion of Phase 1, Metro Rail was connected to Reston. The [Phase 2](#) construction is under way. It will extend the connection to Loudoun County, including Dulles Airport and is expected to open next year.

This was a major improvement for our region, unlocking economic growth and easing congestion. However, it did not come without trade-offs, and for Alexandria those trade-offs were significant.

From the early days of the Metro Rail system, the tunnel under the Potomac River, connecting the Rosslyn Metro Station in Arlington with the Foggy Bottom Metro Station in Washington, has been the most significant chokepoint in the system. Today, the tunnel can carry 26 trains per hour in each direction.



As the areas of Fairfax County at the end of the Orange Line have grown, so have the demands on this sole tunnel connection to our nation's capital. With the opening of

the Silver Run, the situation reached a breaking point.

In preparation for the opening of the Silver Line, Metro implemented a series of changes to the Blue Line to free up capacity in the Rosslyn tunnel to allow the Silver Line service to operate.

As a result, the Blue Line which previously provided rush-hour service every 6 minutes to Alexandria residents boarding at Van Dorn, Braddock Road, and King Street Metro, ran every 12 minutes.

To provide alternatives for these riders, Metro expanded Yellow Line service. It utilizes the other, above ground, Potomac River crossing between the Pentagon and L'Enfant Plaza. As a Yellow Line commuter myself, this additional service was a nice improvement. They also deployed longer eight-car trains during rush hour on the

Blue Line, as well as expanded some regional bus service to ease the crunch.

While these alternatives certainly helped, they do not address the underlying issue, which is a lack of a capacity in the system, most acutely in the tunnel under the Potomac River.

[Two years ago, Metro shuffled the headways yet again](#), bringing peak headways to 8 minutes on the Orange, Blue and Silver lines, and scrapping the expanded Yellow line service. Today that meets the maximum capacity of 26 trains per hour in the Rosslyn tunnel.

With Metro working to address long-deferred safety and repair needs, it is now time to turn attention to how we will as a region accommodate the future.

To plan that future, [Metro has convened the "Blue/Orange/Silver Capacity and Reliability Study."](#) This effort is designed to identify the region's plan to increase the capacity on these three lines. This two-year study will analyze alternatives, and ultimately make a recommendation to the WMATA Board for approval.

This is not a new question for our region. [Many studies have looked at this issue before](#). I am hopeful this effort will provide the impetus to move forward with comprehensive solutions to address the challenges faced by Alexandria commuters today, and those that will face our City for decades to come.

Mobility Plan

[The City is under way on an effort to update our Transportation Master Plan, and we want your input!](#) Adopted over a decade ago, we're working to make changes to reflect new technologies, new methods and strategies.

As we advance this effort, the City is conducting a survey of residents to help guide the decisions ahead. [The survey is available this month and we welcome your input!](#)

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