

North Old Town Independent Citizens' Association of Alexandria, Virginia

NOTICE

P.O. Box 25571
Alexandria, VA 22314

December 14, 2020

Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board
c/o Vicki Caudullo, EIT
Shared Mobility Planner
Department of Transportation & Environmental Services
City of Alexandria | 421 King Street Room 235 | Alexandria, VA 22314
victoria.caudullo@alexandriava.gov

RE: OTN Bikeshare Station Location & 530 First Street Development Bikeshare Station

Dear Chairman Schuyler, Vice Chair Lewis and Members Bonnard, Ebbers, Kane, Tucker and Osborne;

We, the Board of the North Old Town Independent Citizens' Association (NOTICE), write to express our thanks to the Board and City Mobility staff for meeting with NOTICE in December and considering our comments, support and current concerns regarding Bikeshare Station location in OTN. Our comments are related to three issues specific to Old Town North development projects and relate to the stated principles and goals of the OTN Small Area Plan and Transportation Master Plan. We:

1. Support the removal of the current bikeshare station at 530 First Street (Edens development) along N. St. Asaph St. and its relocation to 900 N. Pitt St. just north of Montgomery Street.
2. Oppose location of bikeshare stations in front of restaurant and retail storefronts and private residential entrances in OTN and on Montgomery Street specifically;
3. Request that T&ES, in cooperation with NOTICE, OTN Community Partnership and OTN Alliance, focus on implementing OTN SAP's primary goal of pedestrian focus and walkability prior to expansion of bikeshare stations in OTN.

Support relocation of Bikeshare on N St. Asaph St. to N. Pitt St.: Since a station has been agreed as part of Edens' plan, we do not oppose its relocation to the 900 block of N. Pitt Street just above Montgomery Street as a more suitable site. However, we encourage T&ES to explore colocation with shared EV charging or wired connections for future bikeshare stations to allow location in more appropriate and desirable but solar-challenged sites in OTN.

Opposition to Bikeshare stations at residential, restaurant and retail entrances in

OTN: The pandemic has highlighted the need for more curbside pick-up/drop off, walking and outdoor seating space in OTN. NOTICE met with some HOAs and small businesses in the OTN retail district after our meeting and they generally view bikeshare favorably but have concerns for storefront visibility, parking access for short errands, sidewalk space and desired tree canopy.

The OTN SAP prioritizes a pedestrian-focus in overall design and mixed use development. NOTICe encourages additional consideration of small business health in bikeshare siting criteria.

Urge T&P Board and T & ES to focus on primary walkability and pedestrian-focus goals of the OTN SAP: NOTICe believes there are currently enough Bikeshare stations south of First St. in OTN. We need to make room for wider sidewalks and increased street tree canopy throughout OTN as prioritized in the OTN Small Area Plan. Specifically, focus on implementing street/sidewalk improvements (mainly tree canopy, wider sidewalks) and the pedestrian and bicycle crossing safety projects prioritized in the OTN SAP and Transportation Master Plan prior to siting or requesting developer funding of additional bikeshare stations in OTN. NOTICe with the Old Town North Community Partnership and Old Town North Alliance is ready to facilitate area public engagement and implementation of these projects.

Should you have questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact NOTICe President Mary Harris at [REDACTED] and/or Board Secretary Trevor Riley at notice.communications@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

NOTICe Board of Directors

Adopted December 14, 2020