

### PELT Update for RCA - Jan 25, 2023

The RCA's newly-formed Planning, Environment, Land-Use, and Transportation Committee (PELT) intends to improve communication and collaboration between residents and the City regarding infrastructure and development projects affecting our neighborhood. On January 17, the PELT committee members met with City Manager Jim Parajon, Deputy City Manager Yon Lambert, and City and AlexRenew engineers to improve the communication about – and especially, the coordination among -- four large construction projects planned near the southern end of Commonwealth Avenue.

For each project, the following updates were provided:

1. **King Street/Russell Road/Callahan Drive intersection project** to facilitate traffic flow and enhance pedestrian and bike safety. The \$1 million project is fully funded and the City is now selecting a construction contractor; construction should start soon. The Deputy City Manager noted that the design selected was approved with input from neighborhood residents. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2023 and last nine months. To learn more, visit: [King-Callahan-Russell Intersection Improvement Project | City of Alexandria, VA \(alexandriava.gov\)](#)
2. **King Street and Commonwealth Avenue rail bridge overpasses project** to repair/replace both 100-year-old overpasses. The Virginia Rail Passenger Authority (VRPA) is managing this project which will increase vertical height of the overpasses and possibly the horizontal width for enhanced vehicular throughput, as well as pedestrian and bicycle safety. The recommendation of “full replacement” of the existing bridges may lead to a shutdown of the traffic ways. The City is working with VRPA to coordinate the impact of this project, as design is currently underway with construction planned for 2024-2026. To learn more, visit: [King and Commonwealth Railroad Bridges - VRPA \(vapassengerrailauthority.org\)](#)
3. **Capacity-building projects to mitigate stormwater flooding** along Hooff's Run. The City has a number of stormwater management projects planned along lower Commonwealth Avenue. One of the largest will be near West Rosemont Avenue and Russell Road. Initial design is scheduled for 2027, with construction not starting until 2031. To learn about all of the stormwater projects planned in the Rosemont area, visit the interactive map at: [Flood Action Alexandria | City of Alexandria, VA \(alexandriava.gov\)](#)
4. **Commonwealth Avenue sanitary sewer interceptor project** to help alleviate basement back-ups during flooding. Alexandria Renew Enterprises is responsible for this project to expand the capacity of the sanitary sewer main. The project is in a very preliminary stage and survey crews are just now marking the location of existing underground electrical, gas, and water utilities. A high-level plan will be made available for state approval by late 2023 or early 2024. It is too early to estimate when construction might begin. To learn more, visit: [Commonwealth Interceptor Upgrade Project | AlexRenew](#)

The City Manager recognized that these four large projects are concentrated in a small area. He noted that hearing directly from residents greatly improves the City's understanding of the impact that large construction projects have on a neighborhood. At the end of the meeting, the City Manager designated a senior City official for each of the first three projects to work directly with the PELT committee to facilitate the flow of project information to Rosemont residents through the RCA. In a similar fashion, the PELT committee is working with Alexandria Renew Enterprises to facilitate the flow of information concerning the Commonwealth interceptor project.