

PELT Update for the March 23 RCA Meeting

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.

The PELT committee members meet with City staff and other organizations (e.g. Alex Renew, Virginia Rail Passenger Authority) 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, here is status and where you can learn more:

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- 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.

To learn more, visit: [King-Callahan-Russell Intersection Improvement Project | City of Alexandria, VA \(alexandriava.gov\)](#)

- Key Point: Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2023 and last nine months.

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- 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.

To learn more, *and sign-up for automatic updates*, visit: [King and Commonwealth Railroad Bridges - VPRA \(vapassengerrailauthority.org\)](#)

- Key Point: VPRA will begin public outreach starting in Spring 2023.
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3. **Capacity-building projects to reduce stormwater flooding** along Hooff's Run.

The City has a number of stormwater management projects planned along lower Commonwealth Avenue. The largest and most immediate will create a bypass to route storm water from Timber Branch Creek away from the Hooff's Run Culvert. A later project will create more capacity for moving stormwater from the area around West Rosemont Avenue and Russell Road.

To learn about all of the stormwater projects planned in the Rosemont area, *and sign-up for automatic updates*, visit the interactive map at: [Flood Action Alexandria | City of Alexandria, VA \(alexandriava.gov\)](#)

- Key point: For the first project, a design contractor has been selected. The design will solicit public feedback starting in 2023. Construction planned no sooner than 2026.

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.

To learn more, visit: [Commonwealth Interceptor Upgrade Project | AlexRenew](#)

- Key point: A high-level plan will be made available for state approval by early 2024. Public outreach will occur around the same time. It is too early to estimate when construction might begin.

The PELT committee will report regularly at Rosemont Civic Association meetings and through the monthly RCA newsletter to keep residents informed as the four projects get underway.