



## FTA's New Freedom Program Case Study

### Subrecipient

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### Background

The City of Alexandria is home to over 160,000 residents and 12,000 businesses (U.S. Census). Many of these resident and businesses are located within the historic Old Town neighborhood of Alexandria, founded in 1749. Old Town is a unique neighborhood that has maintained much of its historic character throughout the centuries, and as a result contains many inaccessible street crossings for pedestrians. The City of Alexandria, in partnership with the City of Alexandria Commissions on Aging and Persons with Disabilities, actively seek methods to improve the safety and ease of mobility for all populations within the Old Town neighborhood.

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) awarded funds to the City of Alexandria during fiscal year 2013 to help assist the City in improving the safety of several intersections within the Old Town

neighborhood. The City of Alexandria received \$320,000 in federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Freedom (NF) program to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. The project was completed in 2018.

### Project Description

The project sought to upgrade numerous intersections in Old Town Alexandria to improve safety and enhance mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities. Upgrades included items such as pedestrian cross walk signals, installation of curb ramps, bus bulbs and benches, and improved crosswalk markings. A total of six intersections received improvements as detailed in the table on the following page.

Each intersection was strategically selected based on input received from stakeholders. Most intersection improvements occurred along Alexandria Transit Company's DASH bus routes/stops.

The project included in-house design work completed by the City of Alexandria. Upon approval from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), the City procured a contractor to perform construction activities and actively oversaw the construction process. This task proved to be a

Intersection	Pedestrian Signals	Curb Ramps	Bus Bulb	Bus Bench	Crosswalk
Pendleton & St. Asaph	8	2	1	0	2
Pendleton & Columbus	8	3	2	1	2
Pendleton & Payne	0	2	1	0	1
Pendleton & West	0	2	1	0	1
N. Washington & Oronoco	8	0	0	0	0
Madison & Henry	0	2	1	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

challenge as certain intersection improvements were delayed due to utility relocation. Not to be deterred, the City successfully navigated complex coordination efforts with the respective utilities to ensure the project could continue.

### Impact

The bus bulb-outs improve the ease of boarding/deboarding DASH busses for passengers. The benches offer a comfortable space to wait for the bus.

The installed pedestrian signals at intersections provide safer paths for pedestrians to travel to bus stops. New curb cuts allow for wheelchairs to more freely travel along the sidewalks.

Photos on the following page illustrate the improved accessibility and safety for pedestrians at these intersections.

### Next Steps

The City of Alexandria, in conjunction with DASH, will monitor transit ridership at bus stops located near the intersection improvements. The City will also monitor

feedback submitted by stakeholders regarding their impressions of the improvements.

### More Information

COG served as the designated recipient for the NF program in the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area. The National Capital Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at COG solicited and selected projects that aimed to improve mobility for transportation-disadvantaged groups. Currently, COG helps administer the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities grant program in the region.

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For more information about this project or future solicitations, contact:

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