



# Polk Avenue Sidewalk Project

City Council Public Hearing  
September 17, 2022

# Issue

Should City Council uphold the Traffic & Parking Board recommendation to remove nine parking spaces on Polk Avenue between Pelham Street and Palmer Place to support the installation of a sidewalk?

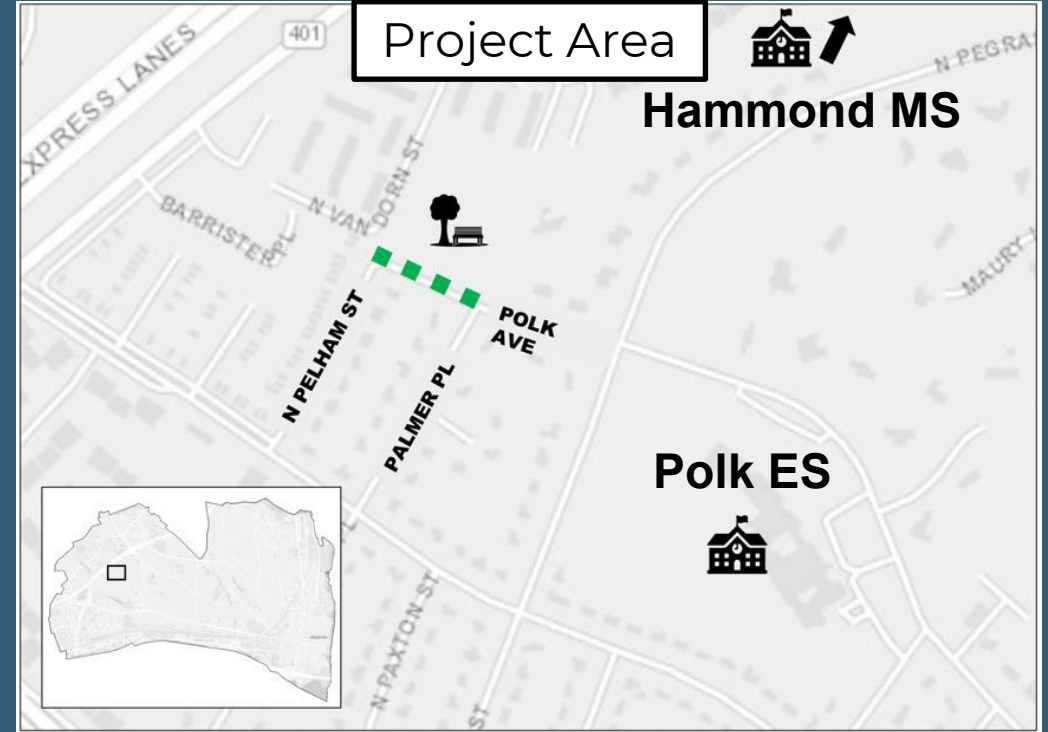
# Recommendation

That the City Council:

1. Concur with the Traffic & Parking Board recommendation to remove 9 parking spaces on Polk Avenue between Pelham Street and Palmer Place to support the installation of a sidewalk.
2. Deny the appeal of the Traffic & Parking Board decision as it relates to the Polk Avenue Sidewalk Project.

# Background

- **Sidewalk gap on Polk Avenue**  
between Pelham St and Palmer Pl
- Sidewalk recommended in **Safe Routes to School** Walk Audit for Polk Elementary School
- **Complete Streets Policy:** Streets should provide safe and convenient travel for everyone
- **Alexandria Mobility Plan:** Build out a continuous, connected, and accessible pedestrian network
- **Vision Zero Action Plan:** Implement Safe Routes to School engineering recommendations





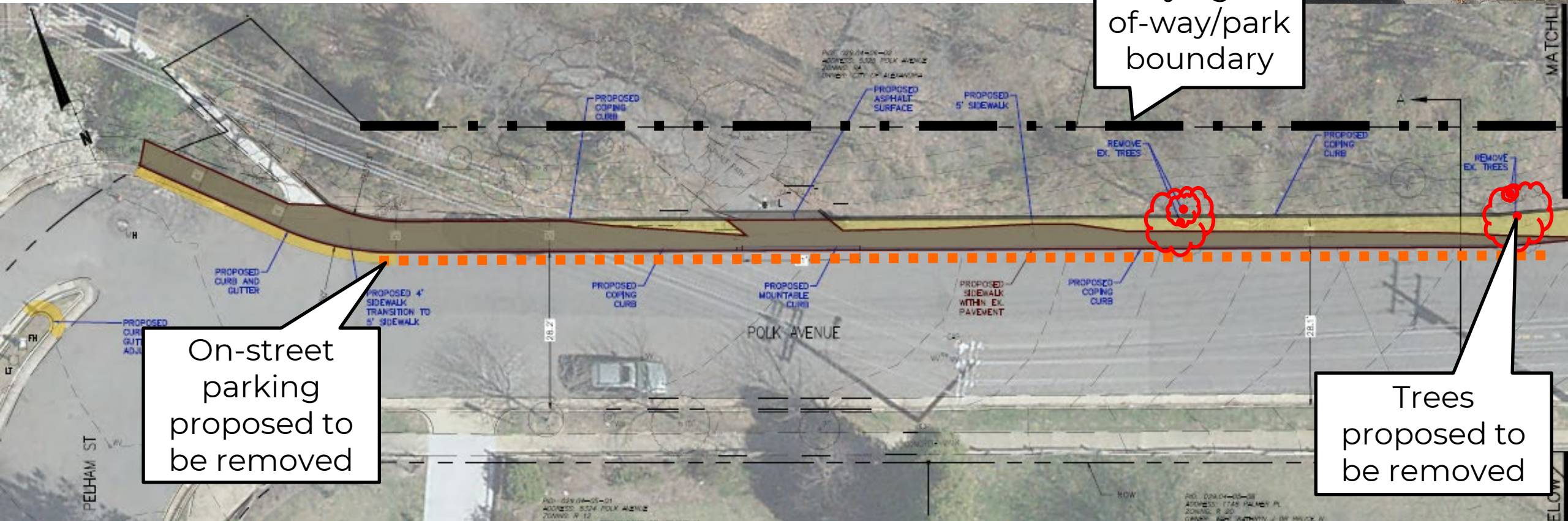
# Existing Conditions

Today, people must either walk in the street or cross to continue along their route.



# Proposed Improvements

- Install sidewalk to fill existing gap
- Remove 9 on-street parking spaces



City right-of-way/park boundary

On-street parking proposed to be removed

Trees proposed to be removed

# Community Engagement

## Outreach Process:

- ✓ Community comment period held April-July
- ✓ Flyers mailed to adjacent residents
- ✓ Flyers sent to neighborhood associations
- ✓ Site meeting with residents
- ✓ Meeting with Polk PTA
- ✓ Community meeting with civic association
- ✓ Traffic & Parking Board public hearing

## Major themes:

- Support for sidewalk, desire for increased safety and access
- Concern about trees and park impacts
- Concern about drainage
- Concern about parking

## Support from:

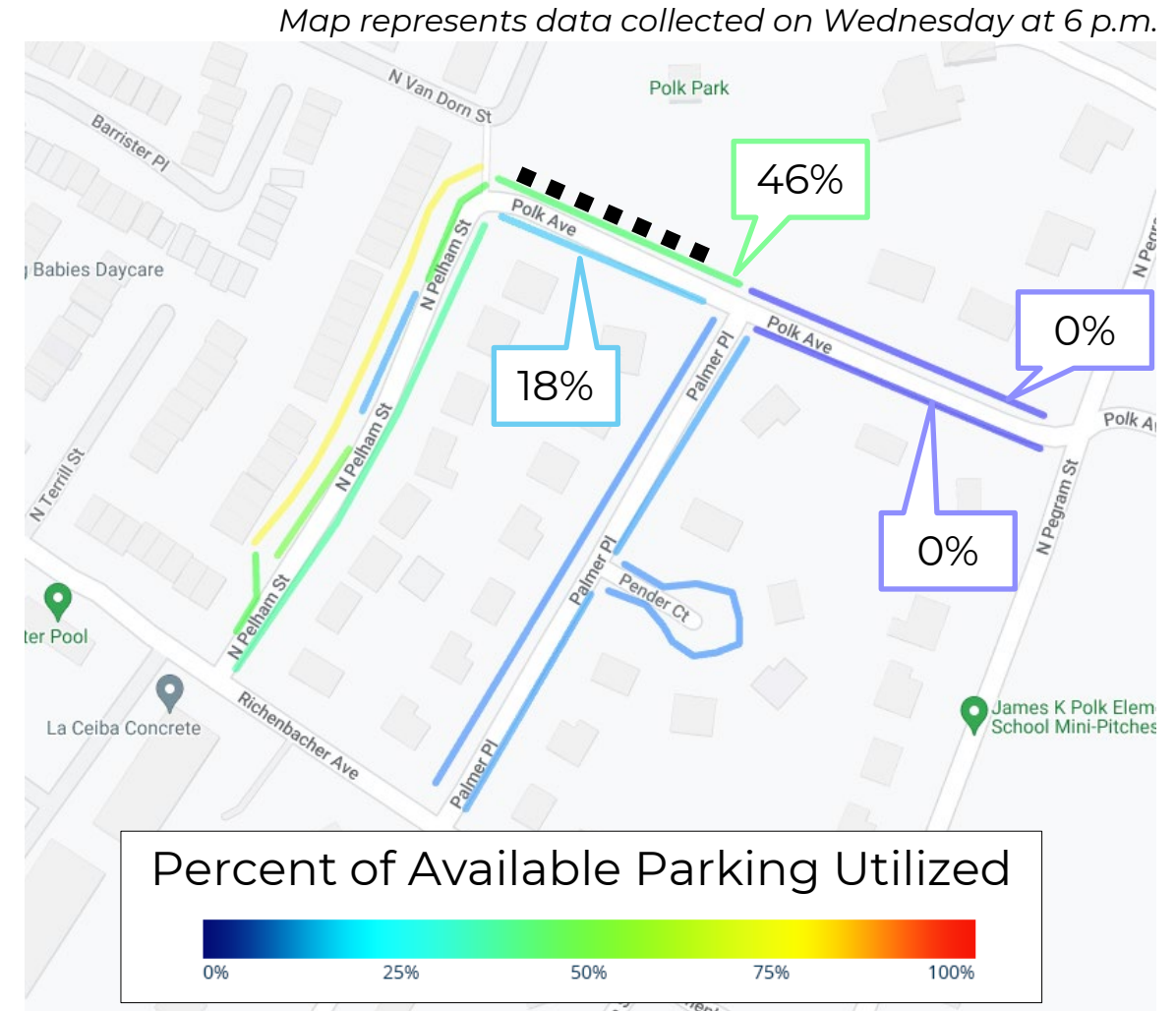
- Polk Elementary School
- Hammond Middle School
- Polk PTA
- Parkside at Alexandria
- Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities

**Note:** No position from Brookville-Seminary Valley or Seminary Hill Civic Associations

# Considerations

- Available parking is sufficient to meet demand
- Crosswalks are not a substitute for sidewalks
- Crosswalk not recommended at Polk Ave and Pelham St

➤ 9 spaces removed of ~50 on-street spaces on Polk Ave



# Staff Recommendation

That City Council:

1. **Concur with the Traffic & Parking Board decision** to remove 9 parking spaces on Polk Avenue between Pelham Street and Palmer Place to support the installation of a sidewalk.
2. **Deny the appeal** of the Traffic & Parking Board decision as it relates to the Polk Avenue Sidewalk Project.