

SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 15 FORUM

Supervisor Bulova opened the meeting and asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

Public Comments

No public comment

Interchange Study

Supervisor Bulova reported that preliminary conceptual work is being done on the Route 123/Braddock Road interchange project. Please go to the Fairfax County Department of Transportation website at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/braddock_r123.htm for more on the Interchange Study and to see the presentation that has been prepared on the alternatives for the interchange.

Tony Vellucci of Kings Park West Civic Association asked which of the alternatives was safer. The consultants answered that there were no studies that show which alternative interchanges are safer.

Bruce Wallachy of the Braddock District Council asked about pedestrian traffic. The consultants replied that there are sidewalks and paths in all the alternatives.

Supervisor Bulova said that, at the intersection, there are significant Civil War features, and the planning and implementation of the project is trying to respect these features and artifacts.

John Yeatman of North Hill asked what about the “takes” and access closures in North Hill. The consultants responded that design plans are not complete enough yet to pinpoint “takes” and access closures.

Supervisor Bulova reiterated that the Interchange Study is still very early in the process, and construction is probably about 10 years away. This process is going to make sure that as many people as possible have as much information as possible as soon as it is available. She said that she would continue to work with impacted communities to make information available.

Supervisor Herrity asked if the county can go back and look at these alternatives with regard to community access points. The North Hill Community and Supervisor Herrity are concerned about limited access and egress at North Hill and Braddock.

Neighborhood Parking

As a result of student overflow parking around George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College, Supervisor Bulova requested that county staff look into the feasibility of amending the Residential Permit Parking District (RPPD) ordinance to include areas around universities and colleges. We currently have RPPDs surrounding all the high schools in the Braddock District. It was announced that a Public Hearing would be held on October 20, 2008, on the proposed amendment to the RPPD ordinance. The

ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors and allows for the establishment of an RPPD on roadways within 2,000 feet of George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College. Residents of the affected roadways will need to circulate a petition to establish an RPPD. The petition requires the signatures of 60% of the eligible addresses and a \$10 filing fee per signature. Only roadways on which there are residential addresses qualify for an RPPD. An additional change made to the RPPD ordinance excludes boats and trailers from parking in an RPPD. To obtain a petition or for additional information on the RPPD ordinance, please call Supervisor Bulova's office or go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rppd.htm> .

Prior to the meeting, a resident of the City of Fairfax raised a question regarding parking enforcement on University Drive west of Route 123 on George Mason University. This was discussed briefly at the meeting, and representatives of the County Police Department and Department of Transportation will get back to the Forum regarding whether it is the jurisdiction of the County Police or the University Police to enforce parking regulations on this section of University Drive.

High School Graduation Report

Benn Crandall from the university stated that plans to lessen the amount of traffic from high school graduations have been implemented. Last year, there were three graduations a day for five straight days, and planners have looked into alternatives to avoid this in the future. Planners have tried to move some graduations around to reduce the traffic impact.

One attendee said the University offers a wonderful service by opening up the Patriot Center for graduations, so large families can go. Traffic is one consideration, but it is not everything.

Braddock District School Board Representative Tessie Wilson explained that graduations have to be held within a certain time period stipulated by state statute. She explained further that it is standard for graduations for students to arrive two hours before the start and for parents to arrive between an hour and an hour and a half early.

John Yeatman suggested that if that is the case, the statute should be changed.

Supervisor Bulova thanked Fairfax County Public Schools for attending and said that we will see how the 2009 graduations go.

Fairfax City Traffic Improvement around George Mason University

Alex Verzosa, Transportation Director for the City of Fairfax, discussed the George Mason Boulevard construction project.

Off-Campus Student Behavior Problems

Supervisor Bulova listed addresses that are problem houses and told the community to call the police when there are problems. Tony Vellucci of KPWCA said that Kings Park West has appointed a community liaison for students and to educate residents about calling in. They are pursuing this "two-pronged" approach.

Master Police Officer Kim Taylor of the George Mason University Police Department said that now when a city or county officer cites a student for a violation of the noise ordinance, a copy of the citation goes to campus police, who then discuss it with the Dean of Students. Students can be suspended and otherwise disciplined as a result. The University Police Department encourages residents to call them every time. The police take down license plate numbers and are doing surveillance to monitor party houses.

Supervisor Bulova requested that the university police put together a standard operating procedure for nearby residents and community associations. Traci Claar said that the University will be mailing a brochure out to help make university students better neighbors. The brochure will include information on what residents and communities should do.

The new faculty-staff housing was also discussed. No tax money is involved in this project, according to Tom Calhoun; the mortgage will be based on rents coming in. Construction will start in one month and will go for 14 months.

On another topic, university officials said the university is experiencing a nine percent budget reduction, \$7.8 million, in the current fiscal year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in Braddock Hall.

Meeting Attendees

Supervisor Sharon Bulova's Office – Supervisor Bulova, Colin Campbell and Sally Tomlin

Supervisor Herrity's Office – Supervisor Herrity

University Staff – Tom Calhoun, Traci Claar and Benn Crandall

Fairfax County Staff – John Bell, Tad Borkowski, Sayed Nabavi, Officer Chris Sawyer and Sgt. Richard Theal

Fairfax County Public Schools – School Board Representative Tessie Wilson and Bill Curran

Community Association Representatives – Tony Vellucci (Kings Park West Civic Association), Bruce Wallachy (Braddock District Council), John Yeatman (North Hill), Phil Beenhouwer (Fairfax Club Estates), Marcia Young (Kingsberry), Art Wells (Truro Homeowners Association), Karl Kraus (West Park Civic Association) and Cliff Keenan (Country Club View)

Citizens – Bill Barfield (County Club View), and Jeff Root, Joe Meyer, and Ann and David Sharp (Kings Park West), Joan Pascaleff (Kings Park West)

Others – Delegate David Bulova (Virginia House of Delegates), Alex Verzosa (City of Fairfax), Suzanne Harsel (Fairfax County Planning Commission), Tom Heil (RK&K Engineering Consulting) and Rick Wolff (University Mall)