

Transportation Input Session  
Sterling Middle School  
August 30, 2007

Planning Commissioners Present: Teresa Whitmore, Suzanne Volpe and Helena Syska

George Phillips gave a presentation on population and job growth projected between now and 2030. The draft Countywide Transportation Plan is multi-modal. He explained the status of the process to review and ultimately adopt the CTP and announced the future meetings. Following the June 18, 2007 public hearing, the Planning Commission directed that staff arrange for seven community meetings to afford the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

At the conclusion of the community meetings, the Planning Commission will continue its deliberations and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The Board will then hold a public hearing and have indicated they will take action on the Plan by the end of the year.

Garry Nicely, a resident on Environs Road, said he doesn't think construction is being handled very well with the interchanges. He says only 1,000 vehicles go under Route 7 at the Route 7/Algonkian Parkway interchange. He feels the taxpayer is getting bilked. He doesn't support the use of consultants. He suggested using technology for data collection. He also is concerned about Route 7 and Route 15. He also mentioned the problem at Route 7 and Potomac View Road.

Ms. Volpe feels there is something that can be done to improve the Route 7/Potomac View Road intersection.

Mr. Nicely then raised concerns about the key fobs that make the horn on cars sound when the car is locked.

Sally Gillette, a resident of Purcellville, asked if there is a way to add time to the red light at Route 7 and Janelia Farm for those coming out of Janelia. She asked for Mr. Phillips to highlight some of the key changes from the current plan to the draft plan.

Mr. Phillips said that would include widening Route 7, Route 28, the Dulles Greenway, Route 606 and addition of the Lucketts Bypass, the Hillsboro Bypass, the Route 860 extension, an interchange at LCP and Route 625, interchange at Route 50 and Stone Springs, and additional park and ride lots.

Ms. Whitmore said she doesn't understand a recommendation to widen Church Rd. because it would take homes and businesses.

Ms. Parkins said from the maps it seems as though the right of way would be there and the traffic projections are there calling for the widening.

Ms. Volpe said when you get on Church Road past Cascades Parkway you are in a neighborhood on a two lane road with children playing in the yard.

Ms. Parkins said you might make a change for Cascades to become the through road and Church to continue as the neighborhood road.

Ms. Syska stipulated that the current 2-lane section of Church Road east of Cascades Parkway in the residential section of Sterling needs to be evaluated for traffic calming measures. The option to make Cascades the through road makes more sense. It is a problematic area and she was wondering if there are ideas for how to deal with the retail in Belfort Park.

Terrie Laycock informed the Commissioners of a study that VDOT has undertaken with respect to access, traffic operations, signage, etc. for the Belfort Park area.

Ms. Syska asked about the recommendation to widen Sterling Boulevard because she doesn't think another lane will fit. She indicated she feels the Sterling Boulevard interchange is handicapped by multiple lights on Sterling Blvd. She feels VDOT was told this and since it was not dealt with there is a design flaw in the interchange.

George Phillips said the draft Plan does include some level of policies with respect to transit services. He said there is currently an initiative underway to prepare an overall Transit Plan.

Ms. Volpe asked why the section of Potomac View Road south of Route 7 was not recommended to be four lanes.

Terrie Laycock gave the history on the road project that was initially planned for four lanes but due to direction from the Board of Supervisors was only improved to four lanes back to Connemara Woods and the balance of the road was left two lanes.

Ms. Volpe said she thinks this needs to have a reevaluation.

Ms. Syska said there is a need for a traffic signal on Lincoln Avenue at its intersection with Church Road.

Terrie Laycock told her there are funds in the VDOT Six Year Plan and options for improvements are being looked into.

Mr. Nicely asked if anyone is studying improvements to Route 7 and Sterling Boulevard? He feels an underpass would be a good idea.

Ms. Syska said Supervisor Staton and Supervisor Delgaudio have an initiative going to improve traffic operations east of Route 28. She asked for an update on that initiative at a future meeting.

Ms. Volpe asked that the Route 7 improvement designs be posted on the County website and be provided to the Commissioners.

Nick Morgan, a resident on Sedgemoor Square in Sterling, asked what can be done to make Route 7 more pedestrian friendly.

Art Smith said there are two pedestrian overpasses planned to go over Route 7 – one at Route 637 and one at Countryside Boulevard. One of the major features in the staff review of new development applications is for pedestrian accommodations.

Ms. Syska said she is trying to find out who has ownership and maintenance responsibility for paths in front of Christ the Redeemer Church. The plan needs to have language to make sure that paths that are installed are maintained.

Mr. Morgan said the path that Ms. Syska was mentioning needs to be improved and needs to have the gaps filled in because many of the paths go to nowhere.

Zareen Shah, a resident on Gum Springs Road, asked if the draft CTP includes the new interchanges and road improvements that are going in now.

Mr. Phillips explained those types of improvements are in the current plan and were considered as built in the model.

Ms. Shah, said she comes to Sterling since her family lives here, however she asked what will be happening to Gum Springs Road.

Art Smith said it will be built in the current timeframe as a four-lane section. Route 659 will be augmented with a new road called North Star Boulevard.

George Phillips asked those in attendance to email or mail comments.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.