

COMMON GROUND ROUTE 9 TRANSPORTATION PETITION

The Northwestern Loudoun Citizen Coalition is comprised of citizens of the Town of Hillsboro and the surrounding Northwestern Loudoun countryside.

Mission

Achieve equitable solutions to the problems stemming from the excessive volume of vehicular traffic using Virginia Route 9, which are adversely impacting the safety, wellbeing and overall quality of life for citizens of Hillsboro and of the entire Rt. 9 corridor in Northwestern Loudoun.

Guiding Principles

We, the undersigned citizens of Hillsboro and the surrounding countryside of Northwestern Loudoun, agree upon the following:

- The volume of traffic on Rt. 9 has reached unacceptable levels and must be reduced.
- Traffic speeds and attendant safety issues must be addressed on all of Rt. 9.
- The area's traffic issues are unique, are regional in nature, and solutions require dialogue and cooperation among officials and citizens of Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.
- Safety and livability for the citizens along the Rt. 9 corridor, as well as any citizens that may be impacted by potential changes to the Rt. 9 corridor, must take precedence in any proposed solutions.
- Northwestern Loudoun is defined in great part by its historic towns, historic properties, natural and agricultural resources, and rural landscapes (many of which are protected by conservation easements). There is intrinsic value—both economic and aesthetic—in these qualities. Therefore, their protection and preservation is essential.
- Hillsboro is a unique and exceptionally well-preserved historic community and its viability as a livable, pedestrian-safe, residential community must be ensured.
- Continued uncontrolled growth of residential development will have a serious impact on traffic volume and safety issues along the Rt. 9 Corridor.

We urge that our elected and appointed officials, in all their actions and deliberations, respect and reflect these shared guiding principles.

Proposed Plan of Action

Guided by our shared principles, in the process of developing solutions we urge officials to place greater priority on the needs of the citizens residing on Rt. 9 and surrounding areas than those of regional commuters or development interests. Our elected and appointed officials must consider the impact of any and all proposed actions on all neighboring Northwestern Loudoun towns, communities and rural areas.

The undersigned agree to work together to achieve the following:

- The setting aside of all of the 2007 draft revisions of the Countywide Transportation Plan relating to the Rt. 9 corridor until a thorough and comprehensive study of all alternatives can be completed (see below).
- The integral participation of all impacted citizens via the establishment of an officially recognized and empowered Route 9 Citizens Task Force, which must occur to ensure the will of all the citizens is included in any plan.
- The completion of a comprehensive study of Route 9—by the Task Force working with county staff and consultants—that includes a careful review of all alternative solutions to resolving the problems along the corridor, while emphasizing the guiding principles noted above. Potential solutions may exist in West Virginia or Virginia, or both. Once the study is completed—within an 18-month period—the Task force will then recommend, no later than six months after completion of the study, a concrete Route 9 plan to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors for inclusion in the 2007 Countywide Transportation Plan.
- Advocate that adequate funding be allocated on a priority basis to satisfactorily complete the independent, comprehensive study within an 18-month timeframe.
- Aggressively accelerated implementation and augmentation of planned traffic calming measures in the Town of Hillsboro, including installation of two roundabouts, sidewalks, raised crosswalks and traffic-calming streetscaping, as well as a variety of other traffic calming options that might be appropriate in the town.
- Aggressive implementation of a variety of safety measures along the entire Rt. 9 Corridor and its connector roads, including lower speed limits, enhanced enforcement of speed limits, lower speed limits near Hillsboro Elementary School, enhanced truck inspections, installation of pedestrian crosswalks.
- Study and learn from the experiences and best practices of other towns and areas in Virginia and neighboring states that have addressed traffic problems and accompanying development similar to those of our town and region.

We urge the timely enactment of the above Plan of Action for the Rt. 9 Corridor in accordance with our Guiding Principles and with the open participation of the public in the process.

CITIZEN SIGNATURES

We the undersigned have read and agree to the aforementioned *Mission, Guiding Principles* and *Proposed Plan of Action*.

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