



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EMBARK RICHMOND HIGHWAY ADVISORY GROUP

On December 9, 2015, the Advisory Group (AG) held its 3rd meeting at the South County Government Center, Room 219, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309.

AG members present

Walter Clarke, co-chair	James Migliaccio
Richard Knapp, co-chair	Vernon Lee
Frank Cohn	Rodney Lusk
Earl Flanagan	Tim Sargeant
Carlos Heard	Chris Soule
Dale Johnson	

AG members absent

Bruce Leonard
Rebecca Todd

County Staff and Guests Present

See attached sign-in sheet.

Call to Order

Richard Knapp called the December 9, 2015 meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Administration Items

A motion was made **to approve the meeting minutes for the August 3, 2015 Advisory Group meeting**. A vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Presentation

Meghan Van Dam, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning

Ms. Van Dam presented a brief review of the Department of Rail and Public Transit (DRPT) Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis recommendations and provided a comparison between the land uses assumed to support the Bus Rapid Transit alternative in the DPRT study and the land uses recommended by the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Summary of Advisory Group Discussion

Transportation

Discussion regarding the Federal Transportation Administration New Starts application process. A suggestion was made to include this in the project timeline for the public in the spring and provide additional information about DOT engineering decisions.

In response to a question about the funding and implementation of BRT, FCDOT agreed that transportation funding could be discussed at a future meeting and the Board of Supervisors' transportation priority list could be provided to the group. Suggestion made to consider public private partnership (PPP) funding alternatives.

A question was raised about whether traffic conditions would worsen if the BRT system was not built and how to communicate the implications of this scenario to stakeholders. Staff responded that the environmental analysis process will include consideration of a "No Build" alternative. The impacts of the "No-Build" alternative will be communicated to stakeholders.

A comment was made that travel time along the corridor with BRT in operation is a critical measure both for the overall success of the project and also for the general public to support transit improvements. More information should be presented about the project in the context of the entire corridor – Huntington to PWC (Woodbridge VRE), and a suggestion was made that Prince William County should be more involved.

Land use densities

Discussion about activity density (AD) measurements. A request was made for county-specific AD examples of different areas, such as the area around the Vienna Metrorail Station. Questions were raised about separating BRT and Metrorail AD projections, and how county forecasts and areas in between station areas will factor into the analysis. The station areas will be calculated based on the ½-mile radius from the station location. A suggestion was made to communicate to public that BRT is a potential bridge to Metro.

Affordable Housing

Discussion on affordable housing requirements for New Starts funding. Concern was raised about the potential loss of affordable housing and the qualification for New Starts funding, since no net loss of affordable housing is required. Concentrating much of the redevelopment in the mostly commercial community business centers may work in favor of the application. An inventory of the existing affordable housing will be taken.

Public Outreach

Discussion about the appropriate amount of information to present at public meetings. There was a suggestion for staff to support local leadership in communicating project information. The Advisory Group members will go out to discuss effort with the larger community.

General Comments

The AG would like information that can be used to address growing questions among their constituents regarding the impact of BRT and the project timeline.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, the December 9, 2015 meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m. The next AG meeting will be determined at a later date using a Doodle Poll.

Date: February 11, 2016