

SUMMARY - FAIRFAX CENTER AREA STUDY KICKOFF VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Updated October 22, 2013

Question 1: What are the strengths and weaknesses you presently see in the Fairfax Center Area?

USES

- Mix of residential and commercial

LOCATION

- Easy access to shopping, government, doctors, and restaurants

CHARACTER

- Clean and quiet
- No sense of identity like Tysons or Reston - Fair Lakes has identity but it is based on developer boundaries
- No real central focal point - Fair Oaks Mall could be but it's not

SCHOOLS

- Good schools

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Safe

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Pedestrian accessibility needs improvement. Certain streets, such as Forum Drive and Post Forest Drive, lack walking paths on both sides of the road. You have to cross several lanes of traffic because of this.
- Many roads are dangerous to cross; requiring people to get in their cars to make short trips that could otherwise be made on foot or on a bike
- Lack of pedestrian/bicycle connection along Route 50 between West Ox Road and Waples Mill Road creates severe navigation and safety problems.
- Negotiation of high-speed ramps on the West Ox Road section of Route 50 is very unsafe.
- Drivers often do not yield to pedestrians at signalized intersections.
- Bicycle access in private developments is often an issue, with some prohibiting bicycles while having storage racks on-site
- Difficult for residents along West Ox Road to get to Vienna Metro by anything other than car
- No physical connections to get from homes to bus routes along Route 50 other than going on private property or via very circuitous routes.
- Improve wayfinding for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Lack of options to bike places
- Need to improve traffic on I-66 and get cars off Route 50 and Route 29

Question 2: What are the opportunities or challenges you see for the Fairfax Center Area in the next 20 years?

USES

- Government buildings along West Ox Road (animal shelter, fire and rescue academy, bus garage, transfer station, and 911 center) do not visually appear as one – it is a government center, so make it seem more connected.
- Wegmans is a big reason why the area is more desirable
- The low-density development along Route 29 from Merrifield Garden Center to Wegmans could be an opportunity for more intense residential development since Route 29 is a larger road and the Fairfax County Parkway can handle more capacity.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Extend Metrorail to Fairfax Center Area - connect to Fairfax Corner and Fair Oaks Mall
- Optimize traffic light signalization; drivers make U-turns at Buckhorn Ridge because the light at Legato Road is too long
- There are bus shelters on Legato Road with no bus routes
- Improve non-motorized transportation access to commercial, employment, entertainment, and transit centers; could be partially accomplished by retrofitting the high speed, overly wide crossings to make room for necessary non-motorized facilities
- Fill pedestrian/bicycle facility gaps in the area
- Improve connections for pedestrians/bicycles on West Ox Road to Route 50
- Improve West Ox Road crossing at Route 50
- Challenges are education, encouragement enforcement, speeds, and private ownership of many of the commercial streets
- Pass-through traffic from Loudoun County and Prince William County will be a problem
- Need more dedicated bike lanes/paths
- Some parts of the area are approaching 50 years in age. Upgrades to water/sewer infrastructure will need to be well-planned and funded.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Add a local RECenter

MISCELLANEOUS

- Improve wayfinding
- Connect government center complex to surrounding community rather than it being separated on an island like it is today
- Make a better use of the large parking lot in front of the government center. While it is useful for Celebrate Fairfax once a year, it could be better used for a government or commercial building(s)