

Study of Issues Associated with Increasing Transportation Funding and Improving Roadway Service Delivery

Citizen Task Force Considerations TAC Talking Points

I. Background

At the October 20, 2009 Board of Supervisors' Transportation Committee ("BTC") meeting, the Board discussed the "Proposed Scope of Work for a Study of Issues Associated with Increasing Transportation Funding and Improving Roadway Service Delivery within the County." One of the five tasks under the scope of work involved "Staff, Board, and Citizen Coordination and input." The Board referred this task to the TAC to provide recommendations at the December 2009 BTC meeting, on how to establish a citizen task force for this purpose.

At the December 8, 2009 BTC meeting, Ms. Janyce Hedetniemi, TAC Chair, presented the recommendations of the TAC. She stated that the TAC is willing to constitute the citizen advisory body envisioned in the Draft Scope of Work. After some discussion, the Board decided that, at the next BTC meeting, FCDOT staff should present "milestones" and "timelines" for the study, while the TAC should present a list of expertise needed for appropriate input by a citizen task force.

II. TAC Response

- A. Per the Board's request, the TAC prepared a preliminary list of the types of interests and expertise the Board may consider when forming a full citizen task force.
- B. Before the TAC presents that list, we would like the Board to consider the appropriate stage at which a full citizen task force may be necessary.
- C. The TAC expects the study to develop in three stages:
 - 1. Stage 1 - Data Collection (Tasks I, II, and III of the draft Scope of Work): This early stage of the study will require consultant research into the available legal, financial, legislative, and organizational issues associated with increasing transportation funding and improving roadway service delivery within the County;
 - 2. Stage 2 - Development and Evaluation of Options: Once all legal, financial and legislative issues are identified, the study will require development of potential option sets as well as consideration of which, if any, of the available options are worth pursuing; and

3. Stage 3 - Recommendations: The study will result in recommendations to the Board and a proposed course of action.
- D. The TAC recommends that the Board utilize the TAC membership as a citizen advisory body in Stage 1 of the study and then form a full citizen task force to participate in Stages 2 and 3 of the study as envisioned in Task IV of the draft Scope of Work.
1. The TAC membership believes it has sufficient expertise to play the appropriate citizen advisory role in Stage 1 of the study. The data collection nature of Stage 1 does not lend itself to consideration and reaction by a full citizen task force. Rather, to the extent that Stage 1 requires participation by a citizen group, a formal, pre-existing citizen body like the TAC, which possesses sufficient knowledge of assessing the development and progress of transportation studies, will ensure that the study receives appropriate citizen guidance without causing unnecessary delay, interruption or added expense. However, should we encounter unanticipated issues beyond the expertise of the TAC, we will notify the BTC with a recommendation for further assistance required.
 2. Stages 2 and 3 of the study clearly require outreach to and participation by a full citizen task force. These stages will invite citizens to react to the available legal, financial, legislative and organizational issues and options identified by the study and to participate in the critical thinking that will result in the recommendations to the Board.
- E. For purposes of forming a full citizen task force, the TAC recommends that the Board consider the inclusion of individuals representing stakeholders interests / areas of “expertise” such as the following in no particular order:
- Schools
 - Bus and other public transit service providers
 - Representative Civic Associations or related interest groups
 - Commercial and business groups
 - Bicyclist / pedestrian interest groups
 - Waste management service providers
 - County area-specific groups
 - Select County Boards, Authorities and Commissions
 - Maintenance service providers (e/g. Public Works, Parks and Recreation)
 - Any additional nominated representatives from Fairfax County Magisterial Districts in addition to the TAC members