



Wiehle Avenue and Reston Parkway Station Access Management Study

Meeting Summary

May 22, 2007

Sign-in:

RMAG Members:

Michael Batt
Dave Edwards
Baba Freeman
Joe Leighton
Kathryn Martin
Colin Mills
Patty Nicoson
Barbara Rovin
Kate Rudicille
Dave Vanell

County Staff:

Keith Goodman
Merrily Pierce
Rick Stevens

VHB Staff:

Chris Gay
Kim Lieberman
Dan Nabors
Frank Spielberg

The Perspectives Group Staff:

Kristie Bergeron-Hale
Paul LeValley
Crystal Sarno

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Norbert Pink

Patty Nicoson called the meeting to order. Visitors and staff members from VHB and The Perspectives Group introduced themselves.

Paul LeValley told the group that the April RMAG Meeting Summary was included in the agenda packet, and asked the group to please review and forward any comments or edits to him. He also told the group that corrections had been made to the March Public Meeting Summary, and that document was also included in the packet.

Paul presented a map of the area that marked the residences of the survey respondents. He noted that a brief analysis revealed that geographic location seemed to determine, in part, which issues the respondents mentioned as priorities. For example, in general, the closer a respondent lived to a proposed Metrorail station, the more frequently pedestrian or bicycle issues were mentioned as being important. He said that analysis was ongoing and that a full report would be available at the June RMAG meeting.

In response to the RMAG request last month to have time to do the Map Exercise that the public had done at the March public meeting, the RMAG was arranged into small groups, and asked to make comments on the table-top maps.

Frank introduced the Model Issue Papers regarding transit, pedestrian/bike, and auto. Kim Lieberman from the transportation team at VHB gave a presentation regarding the Issues of Discussion during the break-out group exercises.

Dave Edwards asked what gaps were found in the two bus systems that serve Reston, and if the two routes mesh well to provide feeder bus access from Reston Town Center to the sites. Kim responded that only the existing services were documented right now, and that a study is in progress. VHB will be working with Connector on feeder bus routes and drawing out routes.

Dan Nabors from VHB presented an issue paper regarding pedestrian and bike issues, Frank Spielberg presented an issue paper on transit and "Road Diets", and Chris Gay presented an issue paper on roadways. The groups were asked to address specific questions in each of those papers during a small group exercise, and report out to the group.

Preliminary Reports Out to Large Group

Traffic and Roadway Issues:

- Prioritize pedestrians, adjacent areas, and ideas of ways to improve bus service
- North side of Sunset Hills, O&D Trail, right of way issues and HOV issues
- Connection roads over or under toll road at Reston Pkwy. Or Wiehle Ave.
- Connect cul de sacs, grade separation
- Road Diet is an intriguing idea, but is it appropriate for Wiehle Ave.? Liked look of it
- Potentially improve Colts Neck and Sunrise Valley

Pedestrian and Bike Issues:

- Are there enough crossings of the major streets – NO
- Other considerations: destination, safety, time choices (1 route vs. another)
- Problem areas: New Dominion from TC Pkwy.-Fountain
- Information Needs: pros and cons of different styles/types of pedestrian crossings and associated costs
- What are the safety issues when people cross to a median and wait there for traffic flow to change in order to cross
- Signal considerations: should signals change if there are not peds, make sure we use all technology that's available
- Geographical area expert

Transit Issues:

- Routes and service areas
- Must consider headway
- All routes terminate at station
- There is already a natural circulation (Sunrise Valley & Sunset Hills)
- All businesses help pay for riders
- Smaller busses, more frequent
- Establish loops that go into neighborhoods
- Issues: cost, equipment
- How far should people walk to bus stops? No more than 10 mins
- Some neighborhoods have rejected large busses
- Busses have to continue to serve those who are not going to Metrorail stations
- Is the Circulator rush hour only?
- Frequency will influence how many people ride
- Transmitters/cell phones for schedule info
- Hours of operation
- What do we think of existing Fairfax Connector service? Must determine satisfaction
- Trade offs, big vs. smaller busses
- Bigger: better chance of getting seat, more cost effective
- Smaller: more frequent further into neighborhood but more expensive
- Fare structure: subsidies for bus service? State and county subsidize, not feds
- Big busses may disturb in neighborhoods
- Need basic information and amenities at station
- As developers build, they could redo bus shelters
- Should the bus layover function be moved to the Metrorail station
- Will developers build into their plans accommodations for busses, proffers for bus stops, peds, and maintenance
- Bus/bike lanes on new Dominion Pkwy & Town Center Pkwy

The small groups agreed to meet wither in person or electronically over the next month to continue their discussions, and will report out at the next RMAG meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting of the RMAG will take place on June 26, 2007, at the North Government Center at 12000 Bowman Towne Drive in Reston at 7:00PM. The next public meeting will be held on July 24, 2007, at a location to be determined.