



# Wiehle Avenue and Reston Parkway Station Access Management Study

## Meeting Summary

September 25, 2007

### Sign-in:

#### *RMAG Members:*

Fatemeh Allahdoust  
Baba Freeman  
Joe Leighton  
Kathryn Martin  
Patty Nicoson, Chair  
Kate Rudicille  
Barbara Rovin  
Bruce Wright

#### *County Staff:*

Keith Goodman  
Merrily Pierce  
Rick Stevens  
Sterling Wheeler

#### *VHB Staff:*

Chris Gay  
Kim Lieberman  
Dalia Leven

#### *The Perspectives Group Staff:*

Kristie Bergeron-Hale  
Jim Lawson  
Paul LeValley

#### *Members of the Public in Attendance:*

Bruce Bennett  
Jody Bennett  
Tim Donohue  
Feliza Kepler  
Mike Barton  
Joe Stowers

### Action Items:

- Paul LeValley to add positive feedback to public meeting report regarding use of bike lanes.
- Kim Lieberman to look into “hole” in service in the southeast section of Reston.

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

Patty opened the floor up for comments and general discussion. Feliza Kepler of the Hunter Mill Community suggested that the RMAG change its Core Values to include, “Preserve the Green Zone and propose strategies to preserve the surrounding communities.”

Joe Stowers discussed the federal transportation grant, and the W&OD trail, Reston Town Center. Access to the Town Center rail station is very important, and there should be sidewalk access where the goat trail is. Joe mentioned that this was discussed at the Pedestrian Summit in May. Merrily summarized the events of the Summit again for the RMAG, and assured the group that they will continue to share results as the discussion goes forward.

Jim Lawson reviewed the July 26th public meeting summary with the group. Bruce Wright suggested that there was a lot of positive feedback at the public meeting regarding the use of bike lanes, and that it didn't seem to be reflected in the report. Paul LeValley agreed to review the report and add that feedback.

In response to a previous request by an RMAG member about potential housing and employment levels in the study area, Sterling Wheeler from the County's Department of Planning and Zoning presented a map and tables to address this question. The table distinguishes between the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments forecasts, which are driven by regional and local economic factors and have an associated time horizon of 2030, and the County's Comprehensive Plan potential, which do not have an associated time horizon. The map used in this presentation identifies where the MWCOG forecasted growth is projected to occur. The documentation will be posted on the County website.

Chris Gay announced that the future traffic conditions presentation would be moved from this meeting's agenda, to the main agenda item at the October meeting.

Kim Lieberman presented proposed bus routes to the group, and each route was outlined. The 558 route was originally planned for up and down Hunter Mill, but Kim mentioned that Baron Cameron needed additional service. She explained that the 558 route is under consideration and is not a given, and that she would appreciate feedback from the RMAG either during or after her presentation.

Kim continued her presentation and explained that the route between the Fairfax County Government Center and Reston Town Center is a point-to-point route, and is designed for 56-minute intervals.

Bruce Wright asked about the need for the RIBS going through the Shopping Centers and Senior Centers. He suggested that ridership was discouraged because it took so long. Rick Stevens suggested that people using the shopping centers are walking out with bags and the bus system should be sensitive to that. Baba Freeman asked if there had been improvement in the Metro Access service, and Bruce said that there may have been a slight improvement. Bruce said that if the RIBS II were running in both directions that it would represent a significant change.

Joe Stowers thought that RIBS, the Reston Internal Bus System, serves the transit-dependent population and should continue to do so by providing quality service to these riders. RIBS should continue to go, at appropriate times, into elderly housing sites, village centers, and other origins and destinations serving these riders.

A member of the public suggested that the internal circulator, which runs every 14 minutes during peak and every 28 minutes during off hours, consider lunchtime as peak usage. A member of the public asked why there seemed to be a big hole in service in the southeast section of Reston, especially during off-peak hours. Kim agreed to look into that situation.

Patty asked about the possibility of having shorter routes for the circulator, and suggested "figure eights" through the area. She also suggested using more technology to assist riders in finding the bus route that best suits their needs. For example, a rider could check real-time bus routes on their cell phones, or real-time announcement could be made at the bus stops.

Merrily noted that there will be a county-wide bus study due in 2009. The group discussed the next steps in the process: next public meeting in December, a capital plan, incorporating public comment, and an operating plan.

A member of the public suggested that the RMAG and VHB consider not just Reston in the bus service planning process. Bruce Wright suggested that VHB may want to consider riding these bus routes to gain a better understanding of ridership.

Rick discussed the new Wiehle Avenue Station Development Request for Proposal (RFP), which was issued on September 19th. Proposals are due on November 15th. Developers are being asked to include lease agreements in their proposals to avoid negotiation problems post-award. He explained that more than 120 people have signed up to attend an upcoming conference on the proposal.

Patty said that it looked like Fairfax County was giving the developer the option of putting parking on the north or the south side of the station. Rick agreed and said that the county is willing to entertain the possibility of providing tax free financing.

At the end of the meeting those in attendance were asked if there were any other groups that the project team should try to meet with. Joe Stowers recommended that the project team should meet with the Bus Riders Council that has been set up and has been meeting periodically with County staff. It has a good representation of transit-dependent riders on it and has been effective in helping the County staff to correct problems and make improvements important to transit-dependent riders as well as others. He said that Merrily Pierce, representing Cathy Hudgins, would be able to help the project team meet with this group.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Due to a scheduling conflict, the RMAG agreed to hold the next regular meeting of the group on **Monday, October 29, 2007**. The meeting will be held at the **Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, in Reston**. The meeting will begin at 7:00PM and will adjourn at 9:00PM.