



Wiehle Avenue and Reston Parkway Station Access Management Study

DRAFT Meeting Summary

October 29, 2007

RMAG Members:

Fatemeh Allahdoust
Michael Batt
Dave Edwards
Baba Freeman
Joe Leighton
Kathryn Martin
Brian McMillan
Colin Mills
Patty Nicoson, Chair
Kate Rudicille
Barbara Rovin
BJ Silvey
Bruce Wright

County Staff:

Keith Goodman
Merrily Pierce

VHB Staff:

Kim Lieberman
Dalia Leven
Dan Nabors
Frank Spielberg

The Perspectives Group Staff:

Kristie Bergeron-Hale
Jim Lawson
Paul LeValley

Members of the Public in Attendance:

Mike Barton
Diane Buest
Carolee Egan
Marcy Kelly
Glenn Kelly
Dan McGuire
Rick McPhillips
Tom Raezer
Linda Stevens
Caneida Stevens
Joe Stowers
Charlie Strunk
Justin True
and 9 others not signed in

Action Items:

- Modify the September meeting summary and re-post online
- Post the "Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities" presentation online
- Plan Pedestrian/Bicycle Subcommittee meeting
- Update project timeline
- Determine location of third Public Meeting

Patty Nicoson called the meeting to order, and gave a brief overview of the project for the benefit of the members of the public attending for the first time. The RMAG, and staff members from VHB and The Perspectives Group introduced themselves. Patty explained that the focus of tonight's meeting would be pedestrian and bicycle issues, and the next meeting would focus on traffic and roadway issues. She asked the group if anyone had comments before moving on to the agenda items.

A member of the public asked how VHB and the RMAG would calculate the benefits to the community in regards to pedestrian facilities. Dan Nabors of VHB responded that priorities are based on projected usage and safety, but that the community must also look at the total package. Frank Spielberg added that the RMAG is a sounding board for VHB's plans.

A member of the public commented that the plan should restrict the number of parking spaces to a small percentage. VHB acknowledged the comment.

Joe Stowers, a member of the public, asked the RMAG to consider an amendment to the September RMAG Meeting Summary. Joe felt that a comment he offered at that meeting was not accurately reflected in that summary. The group considered the amendment and agreed to change the summary. A hard copy of the edits were given to The Perspectives Group. The summary will be edited and reposted to the County's website.

The RMAG discussed upcoming meeting dates. The group agreed to the following schedule:

- Tuesday, December 4th: Regular RMAG Meeting
- Tuesday, January 8th: Regular RMAG Meeting
- Tuesday, January 22nd: Public Meeting
- Tuesday, February 26th: Regular RMAG Meeting

Kim Lieberman of VHB gave a presentation of proposed bus routes at the September meeting, and had asked for comments from the RMAG. She informed the group that no comments had been received between that meeting, and the October 29th meeting. She explained that directional arrows would be added to the graphic representation of the routes to aid in reading the maps accurately. Lunch time will also be considered a peak service period on the proposed 959 Reston Circulator.

During the September meeting, a member of the public asked why there was a gap in feeder bus service in the southeast corner of Reston. Kim looked into that prior to the October meeting, and explained that it would not be addressed during this phase of the plan, but that they would re-evaluate that section in the next phase.

A member of the group asked if RIBS service could be enhanced by not serving the shopping centers (the bus would stop just outside of the shopping center) and therefore speeding up trip time. VHB and other members had responded that RIBS is a community service and needed to serve the shopping centers. Many residents would be discouraged from using transit if they had to walk into and out of the shopping centers. Members suggested that the County could examine not serving the shopping centers during peak periods. VHB discussed this issue further with the County and updated the group that RIBS 1 and 3 do not serve the shopping centers during peak periods.

A member of the public mentioned that crossing Reston Parkway near Colts Neck Road is very difficult. Dan Nabors responded that VHB didn't look into that specific location, but they will be addressing very specific locations as the study moves forward. BJ Silvey noted that there was no sidewalk on the walk back from the "Park & Ride" at Colts Neck Road, and that pedestrian issues regarding Reston Parkway should be a priority.

Feliza Kepler, a member of the public, asked if there was a resolution to the lack of demand for bus route 558. Kim responded that there was a better way to route it, and that the issue would be taken to the public at the January 22nd public meeting. (Post-Meeting Note: As a result of further analysis since the RMAG meeting, the 558 (Hunter Mill) has been eliminated from the proposed bus plan.)

Dan Nabors gave a presentation entitled, "Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities." He began with an overview of the existing conditions in the study area, and explained that more detailed information could be found in the "Existing Conditions" report online at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/sam_study.htm. His presentation may also be found online. VHB inventoried the bicycle facilities within a two mile radius from the proposed stations, and more than 80 intersections within a one mile radius from the proposed stations. For each intersection a ISI (intersection safety index) was calculated for bicycle and pedestrian movements reflecting the potential need to make intersection improvements to enhance safety. He explained the findings to the group, and showed proposed changes to many intersections, including multiple types of signage and median refuges. Other recommendations include countdown signals, installing or upgrading curb ramps, installing or upgrading crosswalks, channelizing right turns, and decreasing both the crossing distance and the turning radius. The presentation concluded with an overview of study area recommendations for both pedestrian and bicycle improvements based on judgment and guided by the ISI calculations.

A member of the public asked what the residents will get in return for giving up the right of way to install sidewalks and other bike and pedestrian facilities. He suggested that trails and sidewalks would be the "biggest bang for the buck" and would enhance the community. He also brought up the issue of continued maintenance. Dan responded that the RMAG's feedback to VHB would help to prioritize the enhancements. Fatemeh Allahdoust from VDOT said that VDOT would maintain their right of way.

A member of the public asked if studies had been done to determine the demand for bicycle and pedestrian access. Dan responded that it was difficult to predict, but they are using data from the Council of Governments and the Final Environmental Impact Statement report to anticipate pedestrian and bicycle demand at the Stations. They are also looking at areas like East Falls Church as examples.

Merrily Pierce asked how VHB would coordinate with the existing Trails and Sidewalks Committees, and Dan responded that VHB is aware that other groups are working on these problems and is working to be in touch with them. Bruce Wright suggested that the RMAG's Pedestrian/Bicycle Subcommittee meet to discuss the presentation prior to the December RMAG meeting. Patty and other members agreed, and a time and date will be coordinated outside of the current meeting. The Perspectives Group agreed to send an announcement of the subcommittee meeting to the entire listserv.

The RMAG discussed the need to update the existing project timeline document, and VHB and The Perspectives Group agreed to do so by the December meeting.

Upcoming Meetings:

Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, November 15th, 2PM

North County Government Center, Community Room

12000 Bowman Towne Drive
Reston, VA 20190

Regular RMAG Meeting

Tuesday, December 4th, 7-9PM

Lake Anne Community Center

1609-A Washington Plaza
Reston, VA 20190

Regular RMAG Meeting

Tuesday, January 8th, 7-9PM

Reston Community Center, Rooms 3/4

2310 Colts Neck Road
Reston, VA 20191

Public Meeting

Tuesday, January 22nd, 7-9PM

Location to be determined and announced.

Regular RMAG Meeting

Tuesday, February 26th, 7-9PM

North County Government Center, Community Room

12000 Bowman Towne Drive
Reston, VA 20190