

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank A. de la Fe, Hunter Mill District
John L. Litzenberger, Jr., Sully District
Rodney L. Lusk, Lee District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Peter F. Murphy, Jr., Springfield District

OTHER PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Walter A. Alcorn, At-Large
Earl L. Flanagan, Mount Vernon District
James R. Hart, At-Large
Timothy J. Sargeant, At-Large

OTHERS PRESENT:

Barbara J. Lippa, Executive Director, Planning Commission Office
Linda B. Rodeffer, Clerk to the Planning Commission
Susan Datta, Director, Department of Management and Budget (DMB)
Leonard Wales, County Debt Manager, DMB
Martha Reed, Budget Analyst, DMB
David Jillson, Planning Division (PD), Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ)
Carey F. Needham, Chief, Building Design Branch, Planning and Design Division,
Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Kathy Ichter, Director, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Tom Italiano, Fairfax County Public Schools, Transportation

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Planning Commission Vice Chairman Walter A. Alcorn, constituted the committee at 7:32 p.m. in the Board Conference Room, at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia, pursuant to Section 4-102 of the Commission's *Bylaws & Procedures* and indicated that the first order of business was to elect a committee chairperson.

Commissioner de la Fe MOVED TO ELECT RODNEY L. LUSK AS CHAIRMAN FOR 2008.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

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Chairman Lusk said the following issues raised at the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) workshop, held on March 6, 2008, and the public hearing, held on March 13, 2008, would be discussed tonight.

- Facility needs of the Community Services Board – pending a response by Pam Gannon.
- Revise project list on proposed usage of Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) funds

Kathy Ichter, Director, Fairfax County Department of Transportation, said this revision was necessary due to the Virginia State Supreme Court ruling that the taxation authority delegated to NVTA was unconstitutional. She explained that the General Assembly planned to convene a special session in the spring to address this issue. She said since projects would not change, page 183 of the Advertised CIP could indicate “FY 2009-2013” instead of “FY 2008-2010.” Alternatively, Ms. Ichter said this page could remain the same with a footnote that the funding for the projects was subject to action by the General Assembly.

Commissioner de la Fe requested that the Planning Commission be provided with the revision before it was presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Susan Datta, Director, Department of Management and Budget, suggested leaving the list as it was but indicating that funding for the projects was unknown at this time. She said she would provide a copy of the draft revision to the Planning Commission before forwarding it to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Hart asked if a proposal for the \$56.4 million dollars available for transportation projects should be made. After a brief discussion, it was decided it was not necessary. Ms. Ichter pointed out that since the list would not change, it could become a six-year program instead of a two-year program.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Sargeant, Ms. Datta said the lack of transportation funding would not impact other projects in the CIP.

The committee concurred with Chairman Lusk’s recommendation that the years for the transportation projects be changed, as suggested by Ms. Ichter, with a footnote stating that funding was subject to action by the General Assembly.

- Status of Frontier Drive project (BRAC related)

Ms. Ichter said staff was looking at how soon this project could be delivered along with others, such as Telegraph Road, but that it would be impacted by the Court ruling. She said it was included in the Springfield Connectivity Study and was on the Virginia Department of Transportation secondary list. She pointed out that funding for the secondary list would be cut by 1.1 billion dollars over the next six years. Chairman Lusk said perhaps this project could be addressed by proffers or included in BRAC infrastructure needs.

- Change name of Project #14 from Bus Shelters to Bus Stop Improvements – change made.
- South County Middle School Public/Private Partnership and alternative financing

Mr. Wales said the school was listed as a long-range project to be accomplished by general obligation bonds in the future. He said a public-private partnership was an alternate method of financing and responded to questions from Commissioner Sargeant about the process which would be used if the County received a proposal for such a partnership. In response to a question from Commissioner Flanagan, Chairman Lusk said he would review the language adopted last year about expediting the project if private funding became available and incorporate it into the markup.

- Bus usage by high school students

Ms. Datta distributed an email message from Linda Farbry, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) indicating that an average of 50.2 percent of high school students who were eligible for transportation rode the bus and that capacity was provided only for those expected to ride the bus, not for all those eligible. (A copy of the message is in the date file.)

Tom Italiano, FCPS, said it was possible that bus ridership for high school students was low in the morning due to early start times but that it was higher in the afternoon. He said if capacity were removed, it would make it more difficult to encourage bus transportation. He responded to a question from Chairman Lusk about the methodology used to determine ridership.

Commissioner Litzenberger said he had received information indicating that of the 46,500 high school students, 37,000 drove to school, yet buses were provided for all of them. He said based on those statistics, \$24 million a year could be saved if buses were only provided for those who actually rode them. He said although this was an operating issue, not a capital project issue, it was worth further investigation.

In response to a question from Commissioner Sargeant, Ms. Datta said she would clarify the status of the preservation of the historic Laurel Hill House in the CIP.

Commissioner de la Fe proposed that the real estate tax rate be increased by one-half penny so revenue generated by the "Penny for Housing" and the "Penny for Stormwater" could be used for capital projects, not operating expenses. Ms. Datta said it was necessary to use 7.7 million dollars of the stormwater funds for salary costs related to the program because there was no other money available.

On behalf of Commissioner Murphy, Chairman Lusk requested that the committee support the Community Services Board request for one million dollars for a barrier-free prototype housing.

Responding to a question from Commissioner de la Fe, David Jillson, Planning Division, Department of Planning and Zoning, said a site located off the Fairfax County Parkway was being considered for a barrier-free group home. Ms. Datta said there was no money to either build or buy one.

Ms. Ichter said she would provide changes to the Transportation Section, based on tonight's discussion, before the Planning Commission's markup on March 27, 2008.

Mr. Wales said Providence District Supervisor Linda Smith had requested a minor revision to the language about the location of the Woodburn public-private partnership project.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.
Rodney L. Lusk, Chairman

An audio recording of this meeting is available at the Planning Commission Office, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 330, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Minutes by: Linda B. Rodeffer

Administratively approved on: July 18, 2008

Barbara J. Lippa, Executive Director
Fairfax County Planning Commission

Linda B. Rodeffer, Clerk
Fairfax County Planning Commission