

Good evening,

I am Jane Seeman, Mayor of the Town of Vienna, and I and several members of the Town Council have been attending the meetings of the Tysons Committee of the Planning Commission. I am also a nonvoting member of the Tysons Partnership.

Commissioner Alcorn and the other Planning Commissioners who have devoted hours of meetings over 22 months are to be applauded for your courtesy, accessibility and attentiveness to the tasks put before you.

Tonight I am going to focus on the Follow-On Motion #1 relating to financing Tysons infrastructure, specifically the Neighborhood Improvements and Spot Improvements. These recommendations are on page 8, #11 of the Strawman Draft. I served on the TMSAMS and agree with that report – improvements in sidewalks and walkways, bicycle facilities and trails in the vicinity of Tysons. Residents outside the Tysons area need accessible and safe ways to get to work, to shop and for recreation.

These residents also need relief from the traffic that will ensue during and after the Tysons development. A list of Vienna area intersections that will be affected was sent to FC DOT several years ago. As Vienna and Fairfax County residents and taxpayers, we feel it is the responsibility of the County to fund these intersection improvements.

Unfortunately, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation Four Year Plan covering the Fiscal Years 2013-2016 has not been adopted, so the Town is unsure which recommendations will be funded. I believe that when this plan is adopted there should be a timeline of when these projects will be funded and completed.

It is one thing to assert that the Commonwealth has a responsibility to provide significant contributions to the construction, operation and maintenance, but it is quite another to rely on that funding. The report also states that it is appropriate for the Federal Government to assist in the funding. However, Tysons is in Fairfax County and the County will be the primary recipient of the benefits accruing from the Tysons Development and, therefore, should have the initial responsibility for transportation funding. The taxpayers, residents and voters look to Fairfax County for action.

Funding solutions for Neighborhood and Spot Improvements are vague and weak. The Town would like to see more definite solutions and timelines.

The meetings held by this committee were productive and do not begin to address the hours spent listening to citizens, landowners and developers. The Town of Vienna appreciates all the time, attention, advice, patience and sometimes even humor that were shown to all of us attending those 22 meetings.

Thank you.