

Planning Commission Meeting
December 3, 2015
Verbatim Excerpt

PA 2015-IV-T1 – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT (NEWINGTON ROAD)

After Close of the Public Hearing

Chairman Murphy: Public hearing is closed, Mr. Flanagan. You're on, as they say in show business.

Commissioner Flanagan: And it's before midnight.

Chairman Murphy: And it's wonderful, very good public hearing, thank you.

Commissioner Flanagan: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to make a motion here. In –in my opinion tonight, neither the Plan Amendment 2015-IV-T1, nor the current plan resolves the Newington Road underlying primary problems of cut-through traffic and lack of truck ban enforcement, nor assures the distant availability of funds for planned improvements. But it does present the opportunity to do a small local study of Newington Road to consider alternatives that can resolve the problems. In that regard, I intend tonight to defer Plan Amendment 2015-IV-T1, for the time being with a follow-on motion to recommend a small local study of the problems disclosed by your testimony. I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION DEFER CONSIDERATION FOR PA 2015-IV-T1, UNTIL THE COMMUNITY, STAFF, AND THE PLANNING COMMISSION HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE RESULTS OF THE TRANSPORTATION STUDY FOR THE NEWINGTON ROAD AREA.

Commissioner Litzenberger: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Litzenberger and I presume the motion is to defer this indefinitely until we reach that conclusion.

Commissioner Flanagan: Yes, until the study is done.

Chairman Murphy: All those in favor of the motion to defer this item indefinitely, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

Commissioner Flanagan: My – as a planning follow-on motion, I ALSO MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION recommends – RECOMMEND THAT THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZE A LOCAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY OF ROAD, BICYCLE, AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR NEWINGTON ROAD, CINDERBED ROAD, BACKLICK ROAD, AND THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKWAY IN ORDER TO ANALYZE LOCAL VERSUS THROUGH TRAFFIC PATTERNS, THE COST BENEFIT OF THE FOUR-LANE NEWINGTON AND CINDERBED SEGMENTS, AND ALTERNATIVE DESIGNS TO MINIMIZE CUT-

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THROUGH AND CUT TRAFFIC ON NEWINGTON ROAD BETWEEN CINDERBED ROAD AND TELEGRAPH ROADS.

Commissioner Litzenberger: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Litzenberger. Discussion of the motion?

Commissioner Hart: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Murphy: Mr. Hart.

Commissioner Hart: Yes, thank you. I – I think I understand the spirit of the follow-on motion. I – I have some concerns about the wording and I wonder, just off the top of my head, the – the area involved is somewhat imprecise and – I mean, the Fairfax County Parkway extends from Route 7 to – to Route 1 and I'm not sure that really – we just got this handed out tonight. We haven't really had a chance, I think, to reflect on the wording and, with maybe a short deferral of the decision on the follow-on motion we might tighten this up. And I think also, secondly, there – there probably – it says a small – you said a small local study and I think it – there may be some broader implications for outreach or whatever we might want to make clear, the extent of who is going to be involved. So, I – I would suggest a short deferral may be helpful to improve the wording of the follow-on motion.

Commissioner Flanagan: Is there anything that you would suggest in the way – way of deleting any of the text or changing any of the text of the motion?

Commissioner Hart: Mr. Chairman, I think it's hard to start editing at twenty after eleven.

Commissioner Flanagan: That's fine, okay. Well, I don't see any problem with that particular one.

Chairman Murphy: Okay.

Commissioner Lawrence: Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Murphy: Well, hold on a minute. Yes, Mr. Lawrence.

Commissioner Lawrence: Suggestion: perhaps the maker of the motion can agree to hear friendly amendments of changes to the wording of the motion at a – at a date certain. That would give us time to look it over. Maybe that might - - date certain would be a couple of weeks from now on that motion. Does that make sense?

Chairman Murphy: Okay, I think we have a solution here.

Commissioner Migliaccio: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Murphy: Mr. Migliaccio.

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Commissioner Migliaccio: Mr. Flanagan, if – if WE could, MAKE A MOTION TO TABLE WHAT YOU ARE DOING UNTIL NEXT WEEK AND THEN WE CAN WORK WITH COUNTY TRANSPORTATION STAFF AND MARIANNE GARDNER AND OTHERS TO GET CORRECT WORDING ON THIS, because we just had a study on the Fairfax County parkway from I-95 to Richmond Highway. So, we want TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT ALL OF THE LANGUAGE THAT WE HAVE IN HERE WILL BE AS PRECISE AS WE NEED TO BE WITHOUT GOING over- – OVERBOARD.

Commissioner Hart: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Hart. All those in favor of the motion to table Mr. Flanagan's second motion to Wednesday?

Commissioner Flanagan: A date of – well, the next meeting is the 9th.

Chairman Murphy: Thursday, let's do it Thursday.

Commissioner Flanagan: Thursday – Thursday would be the 10th.

Chairman Murphy: Yeah, the 10th right? - - to a date certain of –

Commissioner Hart: We are meeting both nights.

Chairman Murphy: We are meeting both nights, we'll give you an extra night, okay? To a date certain of December 10th, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? The motion carries to table the second motion. I'm a famous made armchair quarterback and I can't help but saying Mr. Flanagan's motion was spot on and, in my opinion, that's where we should have started this process, rather than authorizing an out-of-turn plan amendment, to take something off the Plan which – there's something on the Plan could be improved without going through all this public hearing tonight with a henny penny kind of situation – the trees come down, the road gets widened. We should have started with the study first, in my opinion. Our public hearing was very meaningful but I think it would have been more meaningful if we had the study before us first, before we went into an out-of-turn plan amendment which, as Mr. Hart so eloquently said, did take a lot of time from staff from doing Fairfax Forward. And we have a process here that's been kind of decelerated because of staff commitments. So, thank you very much for coming. It was a meaningful public hearing. I think it could have been more meaningful if we had something before us this evening that makes some improvements to that road possible and we could have commented on that.

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(The motion carried by a vote of 11-0. Commissioner Hedetniemi was absent from the meeting.)

TMW