

City of Fairfax Council and Board of Supervisors City of Fairfax Committee

October 24, 2018, 6:00 pm

Fairfax County Government Center

Members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors present were Chairman Sharon Bulova, John C. Cook, and Linda Q. Smyth. Members of the City of Fairfax City Council were Mayor David L. Meyer and Councilmembers Michael J. DeMarco, So P. Lim, Janice B. Miller, Jennifer E. Passey and Sang H. Yi.

The group met at the Government Center and were shuttled over to the Public Safety Headquarters Building for a tour and returned to the Conference Room.

Chairman Bulova called the meeting to order and members introduced themselves. Supervisor Cook and Mayor Meyer gave brief remarks regarding the common history and geography of both jurisdictions. The City of Fairfax and the County have cooperative arrangements for services and this committee is an opportunity to share ideas and talk about emerging challenges.

Discussion ensued regarding opportunities and challenges of George Mason University expansion projects. The University has an increased need for student housing and is interested in expanding and pursuing the creation of an Innovation District. There are economic benefits to the University's growth and both the City and County cooperate with developments to address University needs, but the expansion raises public safety and transportation issues.. The private sector is stepping in to provide for the University's current and future housing needs on the perimeter of the University. The County and the City are currently working with the student housing proposals, but residents are concerned with growth impacts.

The Director of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, Tom Biesiadny, provided an update regarding various transportation projects. The I-66 Express Lanes Project will work on improvements to the outside of I-66 first. The project is expected to be completed by 2022. Both the County and the City have written letters expressing concern for the location of the I-66 maintenance and administration facility and have suggested alternatives. The Route 123 and Germantown Road intersection improvement project is underway and scheduled to complete in July 2019. The land acquisition for the project has been completed. The Braddock Road and Roberts Road project is scheduled to be completed in May 2020. The project includes a northbound turn lane onto Braddock road and a sidewalk connection. The Student Bus Pass Program has begun conversion of paper bus passes to the use of SmartTrip cards. The program has been expanded to Justice High School. 1,400 passes have been given to school and they are in the process of distributing to eligible students. It has been very popular and created mobility options for students for afterschool activities or employment as well as increased ridership.

The 11 Oaks community has houses in City of Fairfax and others in Fairfax County. The group discussed the consideration of a friendly boundary adjustment in that area. The group discussed the importance of engaging and informing affected residents and the potential impact on the schools that serve that neighborhood. Staff from both jurisdictions will gather information to

better understand implications of this change. The County Attorney will follow up with a brief memo to the group about the applicable process in this situation.

The group discussed the possibility of joint services at the Willard Center. The County operates the Willard Center and has been looking to renovate the building. The City operates the Sherwood Center. There is a unique opportunity to integrate services. County and Council staff have looked at feasibility of co-locating in the renovated Willard Center, and have had test fits through the feasibility study to see how the space could work. The Director of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, James Patteson, provided an update on activity happening at the Massey Building site. Demolition will happen in two phases and will be completed in late Spring 2020. The Burkholder Building is currently being renovated and the renovation will be completed in the next 3 months. The Skidmore Owings and Merrill (SOM) firm is working on the Massey Master Plan in 4 phases. Discussion ensued regarding the four priorities identified in the pre-planning charrette. The group discussed the importance of including Health and Human Services in the Master Plan as a transitional use to connect released individuals to services. This is being considered and was discussed at the first charrette. The group emphasized maintaining communication and collaboration through process.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.