

**Minutes of the Seven Corners Transportation and Land Use Task Force Meeting
April 8, 2014**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM
Mason District Government Center

Attendance:

Task Force: John Thillmann, Mary Ellen Ward, Patrick Hoar, Mark Silverwood, Nathan Bath, Vince Burke, Blake Smith, Martin Faga, Devin Corini, Karl Moritz, Jim Edmonson

Staff: JoAnne Fiebe (OCR), Bernard Suchicital (DPZ), Kim Rybold (DPZ), Marianne Gardner (DPZ), Michael Garcia (FCDOT), Kris Morley-Nikfar (FCDOT), Leonard Wolfenstein (FCDOT)

Minutes and Administrative Items

The Task Force reviewed the Minutes of the March meeting. A motion to approve them was made by Mary Ellen Ward and seconded by Martin Faga. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

John Thillmann explained that he is reaching out to the homeowner associations within and adjacent to the study area. The first meeting with the Villages at Falls Church HOA was held. He and Pat Hoar attended on behalf of the Task Force. Overall, there was general agreement by the HOA members with the Task Force's plan concepts.

Mr. Thillmann stated that the Task Force will most likely need to meet later this month to discuss possible changes to the land use plan since it was approved by the Task Force last October. More details will be sent out to Task Force members and will be posted on the webpage in advance of any proposed meeting.

Presentation of Additional Transportation Analyses and Recommendation (FCDOT)

Mr. Thillmann introduced Michael Garcia, Leonard Wolfenstein, and Kris Morley-Nikfar with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) along with Zachary Horowitz from Kittelson & Associates who will present the latest transportation analysis along with some bicycle and pedestrian recommendations.

Michael Garcia began by recapping the last Task Force meeting where Task Force members eliminated Concept A but were still split on Concept B and C. FCDOT staff performed outreach in the past month based on the Task Force's network recommendations to Arlington County, the City of Falls Church, the Providence District Supervisor, and the Mason District Supervisor in addition to a number of county agencies. In general, there was a clear consensus from all of the groups around Concept B. In particular, the Roosevelt connection was viewed as critical by many groups. Staff agrees that it will be a multi-jurisdictional effect to get that connection. Pat Hoar commented that he does not understand why the Roosevelt connection is such a priority. The existing conditions traffic analysis does not indicate this connection is essential. Mike Garcia explained that with the new transportation network this will be a key connection given the Route 50 ramp locations and that the road will be multi-modal for bicycles, pedestrians, and transit in addition to vehicles.

Zachary Horowitz spoke about phasing options and some very preliminary costing that was performed on the two concepts. Phase I of the network includes completing all of the new local road grid connections while future phases focus on improvements to the Seven Corners interchange.

Jim Edmonson and John Thillmann expressed concerns about the Roosevelt connection and its impact on the Corner at Seven Corners Shopping Center. Mr. Edmonson believes the concept may not be viable if it relies on cutting through the shopping center site because it would be cost prohibitive to do this. Mr. Edmonson would like to see if the road can be shifted to avoid direct impacts with the shopping center. Karl Moritz provided an alternative viewpoint on this particular issue. He explained that this is a long term plan and although the shopping center's owners may not be interested in making changes now, it often happens in the future. Several Task Force members agreed in general with Karl.

Michael Garcia then reviewed the planned bicycle network with the Task Force. He stated that he met with the bicycle planner about Route 7 and Route 50 which are both policy roads in bicycle master plan. Policy Roads require additional study in order to make determinations as to what types of facilities are appropriate. The bicycle planner provided some initial recommendations:

- Route 50 should have a multi-use trail on both sides of the road
- Route 7 should have a cycle track to provide some physical separation between the vehicles and bicycles

Task Force Discussion of FCDOT Recommendation

Task Force members voted on Concepts B and C as presented. Eleven (11) members voted for Concept B and no members voted for Concept C. John Thillmann asked the Task Force to put forth a motion related to Concept B.

Karl Moritz motioned to endorse Phase I of Concept B but that staff should continue to look for options to shift the Roosevelt connection in order to minimize impacts to the shopping center. In addition, other Concepts should be retained if Concept B cannot be implemented. Mary Ellen Ward seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation and Review of Draft Outline for Comprehensive Plan Amendment (DPZ)

Bernard Suchicital from the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) provided a copy of the draft outline for the Comprehensive Plan amendment and reviewed it with the Task Force. Several comments were made regarding affordable housing policies for Seven Corners. DPZ staff offered to be prepared at the May meeting to discuss the affordable housing policy in greater detail.

The Task Force adjourned at 8:55 pm.

By

Date