

Seven Corners Connectivity Working Group – Meeting #2 Summary
October 16, 2012

Attendees:

Members:

Rick Cheston
Ben Cooper
Doug Smith
Jan Reitman

County Staff:

Mike Garcia (Fairfax Department of Transportation)
Kris Morley-Nikfar (Fairfax Department of Transportation)
Randy White (Fairfax Department of Transportation)
Matt Flis (Office of Community Revitalization)
Bernie Suchicital (Department of Planning and Zoning)
Aaron Frank (Supervisor Penny Gross' Office)

- The meeting opened with introductions by staff and the working group member attendees. The meeting minutes from the previous Connectivity Group Meeting, September 18th, were approved. Attendance by members was discussed and the concerns were passed on to the Supervisor's office.
- Mike Garcia shared an e-mail message received from a former Connectivity Group member, Marcus Bowman, suggesting the group look at additional roadway connections in addition to transit service, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. It was stated that the group could discuss some road issues but that the main goal of the group was to focus on shorter time frame for pedestrian, bicycle and transit service improvements. Roadway improvements are longer term and will be addressed by the Seven Corners Task Force.
- Chair and vice chair selection was tabled until the next meeting, November 15. A decision was made not to nominate a secretary given the small size of the group. County staff is anticipated to write meeting summaries.
- Randy White, with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation's Transit Services Division, was in attendance to discuss existing and planned bus transit service, from the Fairfax County Transit Development Plan, serving the Seven Corners Area. During this time issues/concerns and goals were mentioned by the working group. Below is summary by category.
 1. Some goals mentioned during the meeting:
 - a. Improve transit efficiency.
 - b. Connection to East Falls Church Metrorail Station.
 - c. Circulation between East Falls Church Metrorail Station, Seven Corners and neighborhoods immediately surrounding Seven Corners.
 - d. Seven Corners area could be the transit hub from which bus routes could be the starting and end destinations
 - e. Reach areas of business destinations
 - f. Minimize bus traffic.
 - g. Investigate bus pull-offs at stops. Example provided was to look at them on Route 7.
 - h. Bus stops/shelters need to be inviting

2. Issues/Concerns:
 - a. Bus stops/shelters, and the sidewalks/crosswalks leading to them, in bad condition. More detailed comments are:
 - Bus stops/shelters look terrible and share their unattractiveness with the pedestrian crosswalks that lead to them. Designed as if no one cares that humans need to use the space.
 - Difficult to walk to bus stops
 - People need to fight pedestrian obstacles in order to use the area.
- Randy White explained that bus pull-offs make it very difficult for bus drivers to re-enter moving traffic and can hurt bus service overall. Randy also explained that the County has a ten year bus stop/shelter improvement program. Details on how the bus stops/shelter improvements are prioritized were requested for a future meeting.
- Mike Garcia moved on to discuss maps and handouts showing existing and planned bus transit service in the Seven Corners area. Concerns were expressed about what appeared on the maps to be gaps in service. Neighborhood circulator service between Seven Corners, the neighborhoods immediately surrounding Seven Corners, the Seven Corners Transit Center and the East Falls Church Metrorail Station was suggested.
- Other comments/notes:
 1. Route 28 line is the second most heavily used line in Fairfax County for WMATA buses
 2. Have bus pull outs at traffic signals.
 3. Mentioned that the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) is leading a transit study of Route 7 from King Street in Alexandria to Tysons Corner.
 4. Should look to neighbors and emanate some of the characteristics that they use to attract transit riders.
- Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, there is a need to move the Nov. 20th meeting to the prior week. The dates of November 14th and 15th were given as possibilities. November 15th has been selected as the date for the next Seven Corners Connectivity Group Meeting.