Resident Cut-Through Permit Program Update

Board Transportation Committee
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In 2019, the Virginia General Assembly passed HB2033 (Murphy) to provide relief to residents impacted by cut-through traffic.

HB2033 provides that Fairfax County "...may by ordinance develop a program to issue resident permits or stickers to residents of a designated area that will allow such residents to make turns into or out of the designated area during certain times of the day when such turns would otherwise be restricted."
Background

• In May 2019, staff presented a proposed program to the Board Transportation Committee

• On July 1, 2019, authority to implement a permit program became effective

• Today’s presentation will update the Board on development of this program
Cut-Through Mitigation Program

• VDOT/FCDOT Cut-Through Mitigation Program offers relief to residential communities impacted by peak-hour traffic

• Access to neighborhood roads are restricted by prohibiting turns or through movements onto certain roads during specific times of day
Existing Cut-Through Restrictions

Three current cut-through restrictions are in place in Fairfax County

• Dranesville District – one restriction
• Mason District – two restrictions
Existing Cut-Through Restriction
Carolyn Drive and Nicholson Street (Mason District)

No Right Turns
6:30 – 9:30 AM
Mon – Fri
Existing Cut-Through Restriction
Downing and Oxford Streets (Mason District)

No Left Turns
4:30 – 6:30 PM
Mon – Fri

No Left Turns
6:30 – 9:00 AM
Mon – Fri
Existing Cut-Through Restriction
Thomas Avenue (Dranesville District)

No Right Turns
7:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Mon – Fri
Cut-Through Restrictions in Process

Four additional cut-through projects are at various stages

- Dranesville District – one project
  - Dead Run Drive/Carper Street

- Providence District – two projects
  - Electric Avenue/Williams Avenue/Overlook Street
  - Allen Avenue

- Sully District – one project
  - Hidden Meadow Drive
Status Update - Draft Ordinance Development

• Drafted new Article 4A, Residential Cut-Through Permit Program, to Chapter 82 of County Code

• Modeled on existing Residential Permit Parking District ordinance
 Ordinance elements include:

• Incorporates “Primary Use Area” as defined in the VDOT/FCDOT Cut-Through process

• Specifies that residents included in a Primary Use Area will be eligible to apply for permits

• Provides for establishment of Residential Cut-Through Permit Zone as part of Board’s approval of a cut-through restriction
The Board currently approves the Primary Use Area for each cut-through restriction.

The Primary Use Area includes all residential addresses accessed by the restricted streets.

Primary Use Area addresses would be used to determine the Residential Cut-Through Permit Zone.
Residential Cut-Through Permit Zones

Addresses included in permit zone would meet one of the following proposed criteria:

• Address is on a public street within the designated Primary Use Area

• Address is on a public street outside the Primary Use Area, with sole driveway access by a public street inside the Primary Use Area

• Address is on a private street outside the Primary Use Area, with sole access by a public street inside the Primary Use Area
Primary Use Area
Carolyn Drive and Nicholson Street (Mason District)

No Right Turns
6:30 – 9:30 AM
Mon – Fri
Primary Use Area
Downing and Oxford Streets (Mason District)

No Left Turns
4:30 – 6:30 PM
Mon – Fri

No Left Turns
6:30 – 9:00 AM
Mon – Fri
Fairfax County does not have the authority to issue permits to residents of Loudoun County.
Draft Ordinance Development

Additional ordinance provisions:

• Specify eligibility for permits based on residency requirements
• Set forth permit rules and administration
• Provide for enforcement and penalties for violations
Resident Eligibility for Permits

• Must reside in a Board-approved Residential Cut-Through Permit Zone

• Proof of residency, and vehicle registration for owner/occupants or renters at an address inside the Permit Zone would be required

• Active duty military, diplomats, and full-time students would be able to apply with proof of residency at an address inside the Permit Zone
Permit Rules and Administration

• Permits would not be available for visitors, caregivers, service providers, non-resident owners, relatives, or other non-residents

• Temporary permits would be available for new residents and for residents who purchase new vehicles

• Permits would be displayed above vehicle inspection sticker

• Permits would be automatically renewed annually, provided vehicle registration is unchanged
Enforcement and Violations

• Enforcement would be performed by FCPD on a complaint basis

• Violations included in draft ordinance
  • Entering a restricted street without a permit
    • Cited as Failure to Obey a Highway Sign - $94 fine
  • Fraudulently obtaining a permit – $100 fine
  • Altering a permit; displaying an altered permit – $100 fine
  • Improperly displaying a permit – $75 fine

• Violations and penalties are largely the same as in RPPD program
Status Update – Software Development

• FCDOT needs proprietary software to administer this program
• Software would be a new program that functions similarly to the RPPD software
• No “off the shelf” programs exist for this purpose
• Software functions
  • Online resident permit application capability
  • Online resident account management capability
  • Program administration and permit issuance functions for staff
  • Integrated with Fairfax County DTA system for automatic record checks
Status Update – Software Development

• Development of software to begin when funding is identified

• Would work with same vendor that developed RPPD software

• Vendor estimate – 10 months to develop

• Software costs are projected to be $230,000

• FY2021 budget request has been submitted for this amount
Next Steps

• Receive Board feedback on proposed program elements

• Work with OCA and FCPD to complete a draft ordinance for Board public hearing

• Complete work with vendors to develop program software and permit materials, if funded

• Schedule a public hearing for consideration of new ordinance and implementation guidelines in Spring 2020
Questions & Discussion