

**MINUTES OF
ROUTE 29 NEW BALTIMORE ADVISORY PANEL**

Meeting #13: August 22, 2019

1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Warrenton-Fauquier Visitor Center

33 N. Calhoun St

Warrenton, VA 20186

Members Present: Tim Hoffman, Vint Hill HOA; Ray Bell (for Pete Eltringham), Poms Farm HOA; Natalie Erdossy, Brookside HOA; Cristy Thorpe, C. Hunter Ritchie Elementary School; Ike Broaddus, Vint Hill Business Community; Holder Trumbo, BOS Supervisor Scott District

Members Absent: Craig Oakley, New Baltimore Fire Department; Pete Eltringham, Poms Farm HOA; Steven Combs, state veterans home (Puller Veterans Care Center); Haven Melton, FAA Vint Hill; George Phillips, Prince William County

Staff Present: Garrett Moore, VDOT; Tony Opperman, VDOT; John Lynch, VDOT, Mark Nesbit, VDOT; Ben Davison, VDOT; Rick Crofford, VDOT; Greg Cooley, VDOT; Holder Trumbo, BOS Supervisor Scott District; Adam Shellenberger, Maureen Williamson, Fauquier County

1. Introductions/ Panel Comments

Garrett Moore opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with introductions and reviewed the agenda.

2. Meeting #12 Summary – Review of Minutes

No comments were made on the meeting minutes.

3. Public Feedback and Follow-Up

Tim Hoffman thanked VDOT and the construction contractors for their work on Phase I.

4. Cut and Fill the Hills Project

a. Schedule & Funding Update

Garrett Moore said there will still be some inconvenience as the work will continue until the project completion date of September 30. He commented that most of the construction work will occur at night with single-lane closures.

b. Construction Update

See above.

Ray Bell said, speaking for Pete Eltringham, that he and his constituents are in strong favor of moving the existing cross-over/u-turn that is proposed for southbound 29 south of Route 215 to a full intersection cross-over at Pilgrim's Rest. Garrett indicated we would review and report back at next meeting.

Supervisor Trumbo supports keeping the four-way stop at Kennedy Road and Aiken Drive.

5. Phase 2 Projects: Rt. 29/600 & Route 29/215 Intersection Improvements

a. Schedule & Funding Update

John Lynch displayed two graphics depicting project financials for the Phase 2 projects. VDOT has taken two approaches: a design-bid-build approach for each segment of Phase 2 (Route 29/Route 600 & Route 29/Route 215 intersections) as well as completing the project with state forces-hired equipment.

VDOT continues to try to obtain operational funds to upgrade controllers and signals so they can be operated more effectively and efficiently.

Most of the elements require right-of-way, which will require utility work and therefore a public hearing process. John confirmed that each segment of Phase 2 will experience right-of-way issues.

b. Section 106/NEPA Stakeholders Meeting: September

Tony Opperman, with VDOT, spoke about the Section 106 & NEPA process and how each will affect the improvement projects from an environmental perspective.

To clarify, Tony said that National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a law which requires federal agencies to stop, look, and listen before making decisions that impact historic properties and the surrounding environment. NEPA directs Federal agencies, when planning projects to conduct environmental reviews to consider the potential impacts on the environment by their proposed actions. NEPA is often described as an “umbrella” law as its analysis incorporates a broad range of federal laws, regulations, and executive orders. He said that using the Section 106 process, VDOT will assess effects to historic property, consider alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects, and document the resolution.

He said that as a condition of the Cut the Hills project, the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) asked that VDOT coordinate a meeting with historic preservation stakeholders to broadly discuss how transportation projects are selected especially with regard to the different roles of VDOT and local governments and to consider how local land use decisions influence transportation decisions and ultimately historic preservation. He discussed the upcoming stakeholders meeting, which DHR requested happen prior to concluding the Section 106 Review for the Route 600/215 Phase 2 improvements. He said the timeframe for the stakeholders meeting is late September/early October. He said the meeting’s purpose is to achieve a better understanding among all stakeholders of transportation and historic preservation interests along the Route 29 corridor and reduce controversies. He listed the participants as including: FHWA, VDOT, Fauquier County, Prince William County, DHR, Buckland Preservation Society, Piedmont Environmental Council, and local conservation easement holders.

Tony described both improvements to be within the historic Buckland Battlefield. He said the plan is to maximize the use of the existing right-of-way and avoid the conservation easement at Route 215. He said the Section 106 Review could be concluded by fall 2019. He added that the Section 106 Effect Determination will influence the type and intensity of the NEPA document.

Tony was asked what would make the project go awry in regard to environmental aspects. He said a determination that we are harming the Buckland Battlefield.

c. Discussion of Phase 2 Implementation Plan

Garrett confirmed that VDOT would like to do all of the work, but given the limited funding the Phase 2 projects will need to be prioritized. Ike Broaddus offered the following prioritization: 1) Dual left- hand turn lanes onto 29 South to 215 East; 2) Add right-turn lane on EB Route 600; 3) Dual right-turn lanes for WB Route 215. There was a consensus on priorities 1 and 2. Garrett asked John to take the priorities back to VDOT internally and rerun the financials based on the updated information.

6. Meeting Calendar – month, time, location

Garrett reviewed the upcoming meeting calendar to include the following dates:

- September 26, 2019

It was confirmed that the September 26 meeting will meet from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, Warren Green Building, 10 Hotel Street, Warrenton.

7. New Business & Wrap-up

Garrett asked if there were any new business or comments and given that there were none and no additional items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.