

MINUTES OF
ROUTE 29 NEW BALTIMORE ADVISORY PANEL
Meeting #14: September 26, 2019
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

10 Hotel Street
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
Warrenton, VA 20186

Members Present: Tim Hoffman, Vint Hill HOA; Pete Eltringham, Poms Farm HOA; Natalie Erdossy, Brookside HOA; Ike Broaddus, Vint Hill Business Community

Members Absent: Craig Oakley, New Baltimore Fire Department; Steven Combs, state veterans home (Puller Veterans Care Center); Haven Melton, FAA Vint Hill; George Phillips, Prince William County; Cristy Thorpe, C. Hunter Ritchie Elementary School

Staff Present: Garrett Moore, VDOT; John Lynch, VDOT; Mark Nesbit, VDOT; Ben Davison, VDOT; Lou Hatter, VDOT; Holder Trumbo, Board of Supervisors, Scott District; Adam Shellenberger, Maureen Williamson, Fauquier County

1. *Introductions/ Panel Comments*

John Lynch opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with introductions and reviewed the agenda. He said that this is his first meeting after taking over as project lead for Garrett Moore.

2. *Meeting #13 Summary – Review of Minutes*

No comments were made on the meeting minutes.

3. *Public Feedback and Follow-Up*

No feedback received or given. No follow-up initiated.

4. *Cut and Fill the Hills Project*

a. Schedule & Funding Update

John told the Advisory Panel that the construction contract is still ongoing; however, all work is scheduled to be complete by the contract completion date of September 30. He also said that a walk-through between VDOT and the contractor occurred the week of September 16. A punch list of items not completed, mostly centered on the guardrail and pipe requirements, will be addressed by September 30.

John said the project anticipates one additional invoice from the design builder. He said that he expects the project will produce a surplus, but at this time does not have a dollar figure, which he said he would present at the next meeting.

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

a. Section 106/NEPA Stakeholders Meeting: Early November

John reminded the Panel that as a condition of the Cut the Hills project, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) asked VDOT to coordinate a meeting with historic preservation stakeholders. The meeting is 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. DHR has requested that the meeting occur prior to beginning the Section 106 Review for the Route 600/215 Phase 2 improvements.

John stated that the updated timeframe for the stakeholders meeting is early November. He added that it would include stakeholders from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), VDOT, Fauquier County, Prince William County, DHR, Buckland Preservation Society, Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), Citizens for Fauquier County (CFFC) and other local conservation easement holders. The November Stakeholders Meeting will substitute for the next meeting of the Advisory Panel.

Ike Broaddus expressed a desire to be included in the list of participants for the Section 106/NEPA Stakeholders Meeting. John said that the members of the Advisory Panel will be invited to the meeting.

b. Update Status of Phase 2 Implementation Plan

At the August meeting, the following prioritization of work was established by Advisory Panel consensus: 1) Dual left-hand turn lanes from 29 South to 215 East; 2) Add right-turn lane on WB Route 600 and dual left-turn/thru lane on WB Route 600; 3) Dual right-turn lanes for WB Route 215 to Route 29 northbound.

John said that preliminary engineering phase and the utilities and right-of-way phase would be the same for priorities #1 and #2. The construction phase will be evaluated to determine the best and most efficient avenue to perform the construction, either with State Force Hired Equipment or by low bid process.. A public hearing on the first two priorities and any other projects requiring right of way will be required. He commented that priority #3 might be able to happen on the existing right-of-way with utility relocation expected.

John presented preliminary engineering, construction, utilities and right-of way projected expenditures for each priority. He projected that the 2021 construction season would be the targeted start date for priority #1. The start of priority #2 will depend on several variables, which include engineering and right-of-way running concurrently and the use of state forces for construction. Utilization of stet forces is capped at a contract value of \$600,000. He said that the estimated costs are for planning purposes only and that updated numbers will be provided as the engineering phase progresses.

Pete Eltringham asked if the proposed project for a signal-less merge from eastbound Beverleys Mill Road was discussed and considered during the August meeting. Garrett Moore explained that at the Aug. 22 meeting, all projects were discussed, but these were the three that rose to the top. He added that also during the August meeting discussion, due to limited funds, the Advisory Panel prioritized projects in order of those that achieved the most impact from a funding perspective. Pete said that he does not disagree with the priorities, but expressed that the project should not be counted out and should remain on a list of future projects. John said that the intention is to keep track of all projects on the list, as there are other funding sources such as SMART SCALE, Revenue Sharing, etc. to potentially fund the remaining projects.

c. Pilgrims Rest Scenario Update

John presented a graphic of the existing crossovers as well as the request made by the Advisory Panel to consider relocating the existing crossover to Pilgrims Rest Road. Advantages and disadvantages were presented. Pete said that the thought of a signal at Pilgrims Rest Road was appealing, as traffic management is needed at this location. Garrett agreed saying that it is doable and desirable, but with limited resources, we cannot afford it. Garrett reiterated that there are desirable projects on the list, but with limited funding sources, a signal at Pilgrims Rest Road with a sensing pad is not viable at this time.

Pete asked if VDOT is keeping a list of projects that while not being considered now, may come into consideration in the future. He noted the signal at Pilgrims Rest Road and the need for an integrated sensor pad at Pilgrim's Rest Road and Route 29 specifically. Garrett and John said VDOT is keeping a list of projects and all projects will remain on the list of projects for future consideration.

Pete commented that there are people in the room who have been involved in numerous Route 29 access studies, and if we look at access issues, there is no doubt that signalization on Route 29 between the county line and Warrenton is going to evolve as development in the New Baltimore Service District occurs over the next decade. He added that he does not want the Advisory Panel to lose sight of the big picture.

6. Meeting Calendar – month, time, location

John reviewed the upcoming quarterly meeting calendar to include the following dates:

- January 23, 2020
- April 23, 2020
- July 23, 2020
- October 22, 2020

The January 23, 2020 meeting will be held from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, Warren Green Building, 10 Hotel Street, Warrenton.

7. New Business & Wrap-up

John asked if there were any new business or comments. Pete requested that at the next meeting, the Advisory Panel work to compile a prioritization of projects that are on the list so if funding should become available, it is apparent what projects are in line for consideration.

At a previous meeting, it was announced that Garrett will be retiring from VDOT. Therefore, as this is Garrett's last Advisory Panel meeting, John presented him with a token of appreciation. The gift, a piece of rock that was blasted out of the median during the Cut the Hills project, was fashioned with an engraved plaque noting the project's name and time period.

Pete said that one of the greatest things about retirement is the opportunity to be recognized by your peers. He added that, in retirement, you get to develop other interests and he presented Garrett with something to help. He gave Garrett a bottle of red wine from Sleight of Hand Cellars named The Conjuror. The name "conjuror" reminded Pete of Garrett's carefully crafted answers to the many questions asked of him by the Advisory Panel. Both John and Pete thanked Garrett for his work in

Fauquier County and for leading the successful Cut the Hills project. Garrett thanked both John and Pete for the gifts and the Advisory Panel for their hard work and dedication to the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.