

Waterford Citizen's Association - Regular Meeting, 4th Quarter 2016

The fourth quarter regular meeting of the Waterford Citizen's Association (WCA) was held Thursday December 8, 2016, at 1:00 pm at the Old School. The meeting was chaired by Wendy Roseberry, WCA President. The meeting attendance list is noted below.

Agenda. The Chair proposed that the regular meeting agenda be shortened to two topics: (i) a presentation on the Waterford traffic speed and volume study; and (ii) voting for WCA 2017 officers. The other usual agenda items, including approval of the minutes of the 3rd Quarter regular WCA meeting, would be taken up at the next regular meeting. Jeff Bean made a motion so to shorten the 4th Quarter regular WCA meeting Agenda, Heidi Mayo seconded the motion and the Agenda was approved.

1. Traffic Speed and Volume Study Update

Presentation:

The Chair introduced the topic of traffic in Waterford and provided background on the County-supported speed and volume study.

Mary Sheehan, Chair of the Traffic Committee, introduced visitors Kathleen Leidich, Assistant Director of Transport and Capital Investment for Loudoun County, and Randy Boice and Sujith Racha from JMT Consultants. She noted that while the study measurements had been recently taken the Consultant team had not yet had an opportunity to analyze the data, therefore the team was there to answer questions but would not be able to provide study results.

Kathleen Leidich provided an overview of the history of the Waterford speed and volume study, referring to an initial contact from the village by letter in June 2015, and a follow-up technical meeting between County, VDOT, WCA Traffic Committee and others in October 2015 where it was agreed that the best approach to the problem was the VA Residential Cut-Through Program, designed to help residential areas minimize the impact of non-residential traffic "cutting-through" as an alternative to the usual arterials. She further outlined development of the study scope of work and approval for study funding by the Board of Supervisors on June 23, 2016, followed by contracting of the consultants. Ms. Leidich noted that measurements had been taken during the week of November 14, 2016 at 12 points in the village (details available in the scope of work).

She clarified the requirements for eligibility for the VA Residential Cut-Through Program were that at least 40% of trips, and at least 150 trips, were considered cut-through (that is, without origin or destination in the "primary use area") in one direction over an hour. She further clarified that while it was a state VDOT program, the County was the requestor (on behalf of the village of Waterford). She added that part of the context for Waterford's cut-through traffic was congestion on routes 287 and 9, and that a planned traffic circle at the intersection of

these two routes had been postponed until outer years beyond 2022. Finally, she anticipated that results of the study would be available in early Spring.

Sujith Racha spoke about the specific measurements taken by the consultants, including turning movements at 7 intersections during the morning and evening rush hours, as well as 24-hour counts for speed and volume (every 15 minutes) at 12 points in and outside the village. He noted the consultants expect to submit a report to the County and VDOT in mid-February. Randy Boice also provided background on JMT Consultants' experience working on transportation projects in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Chair welcomed Supervisor Geary Higgins and his assistant Stacy Carey to the meeting, and thanked Supervisor Higgins for his support in the approval of the speed and volume study. Supervisor Higgins outlined the background on the roundabout at routes 287 and 9, noting that the initial costing of the study reflected earlier economic situation that needed to be revised based on current reality, and for this reason had been postponed until outer years but he was hoping for a revised project design that could be resubmitted. Kathleen Leidich noted that the revised design was nearing completion. Supervisor Higgins also noted that a study was planned to address chokepoints on route 15 to be carried out in the Spring.

Questions and Responses:

- What are the technical definitions of “cut-through traffic” and “primary use area” (Mary Sheehan)? How would this look in practice, e.g., for someone dropping off their child at the elementary school from outside the village (Heidi Mayo)? Kathy Leidich clarified that “cut-through traffic” refers to trips without origin or destination in the “primary use area,” which was for the purposes of the study taken to be the Waterford Historic District. (For example, trips beginning or ending in the Waterford Historic District would not be considered cut-through traffic.) Other possibilities for defining the primary use area might be the school district or zip code; it was noted that it would be important to define this.
- What types of interventions to reduce cut-through traffic might we expect if we were eligible for the VA Residential Cut-Through program (Mary Sheehan and others)? Neither VDOT nor the County have experience implementing the VA Residential Cut-Through program in Loudoun County, therefore it is new ground for everyone, and a wide range of options should be considered.
- Was a by-pass around Waterford a possibility (Cate Wyatt, Linda Landreth)? All possible solutions should be examined, including those “outside the box.”
- How much reduction in percent of traffic terms could be expected with the anticipated types of actions to reduce cut-through traffic (Karl Reidel)? Analysis of the volume data and origin and destination of traffic will be needed to help develop projections for reduced traffic volume.

- We have learned that technology drives cut-through behavior, can we work with google, Ways and other applications (Kathleen Hughes)? These approaches could be tried, but the problem is much larger than just Waterford (other cities and jurisdictions are also faced with it) so this may not be fruitful.
- Can we as the WCA be helpful in supporting Supervisor Higgins' efforts on the roundabout at Routes 287 and 9 (Jeff Bean)? Yes, we can contact State representatives to let them know of the priority for funding this roundabout, once the re-design has been completed.

2. Vote for WCA Officers

Ballots were distributed and the vote for WCA Officers was held. The slate of officers proposed by the 2017 Nominating Committee was as follows: President – Wendy Roseberry; Vice President – Sharyn Franck; Secretary – Mary Sheehan; Treasurer – Edith Crockett. There were no other candidates for any of these offices.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

WCA members present: Michael Anderson; Jeff Bean; Peggy Bednarik; Skip Couser; Edith Crockett; Jonathan Daniel; Sharyn Franck; Margaret Good; Chris Hertel; Kathleen Hughes; Neil Hughes; Meredith Imwalle; Judy Jackson; Linda Landreth; Ed Lehmann; Bill Mayer; Sue McGuire; Bill McGuire; Ruchi Parekh; Kathie Ratcliffe; Nick Ratcliffe; Karl Reidel; Sky Richardson; Paul Rose; Wendy Roseberry; Mary Sheehan; Barbara Soechtig; Bill Soechtig; Lee Spangler; Antonia Walker; Brian Whelan; Cate Wyatt.

Mary Sheehan, Secretary, December 20, 2016