



Loudoun County

VIRGINIA

Caleb A. Kershner
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Board of Supervisors
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December 22, 2020

Commissioner Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 E. Broad St. Richmond, Virginia 23219
Stephen.Brich@VDOT.VIRGINIA.GOV

Dear Commissioner Brich,

For many years, the Catoctin District Office of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has been working in partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation, Loudoun County's Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure, and the Waterford community to address modern day traffic calming and speeding issues in the National Historic Landmark Village of Waterford, which was founded in 1733.

Preserving the historic rural village environment of Waterford while providing modern-day traffic calming and speeding solutions is one of the most an important criteria for me. Therefore, I would like to offer my support for the recommendations submitted to you by the Waterford Citizens' Association (WCA) resulting from the most recently commissioned Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure study conducted by Michael Baker International (MBI).

The study is in draft form now and the County is scheduled to hold a public hearing within the next couple of months. Pending the finalization of the report and a positive response to the public hearing, I offer my support for the WCA recommendations below.

Recommendations

- The community would like to see chokers at the three village entryway locations indicated in MBI's report, each combined with a speed hump or table nearby. The design of these features should consider the 18th-century appearance of the Landmark. We will contact the County to ask that the consultants examine what would be involved with obtaining the small sections of eased land necessary to implement chokers.
- MBI proposed two additional traffic calming measures (chokers, chicanes or splitter islands) located on Old Wheatland Road at Clover Hill Road and on Loyalty Road at Old Waterford Road. We would instead like to ask VDOT for three-way stops at those intersections.
- At the consultants' suggestion, we ask that VDOT waive its more suburban design requirements to allow our rural village to maintain its 10-foot roadway widths after calming measures are installed.



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- MBI's study indicates that the significant speeding problem on Clarkes Gap Road may be due in part to the 45 mph speed limit so close to the village. The community would like to see the speed limit reduced to 30 mph in a larger buffer zone outside the village, for example one that extends to our community pool at 16158 Clarkes Gap Road.
- We also ask that VDOT revisit our request for a stop sign at the intersection of Clarkes Gap and Factory Street. We believe the reduced speed limit, combined with the newly-installed, pole-mounted speed display signs, will address VDOT's concerns about high approaching speeds and longer stopping distances.
- We ask that additional calming measures be installed on Milltown Road, within the National and/or County Historic District(s).
- Waterford's "no-thru truck" zone should be reduced in size to include only the County and/or National Historic Landmark District(s).
- The WCA has proposed alternative peak-hour solutions, including "no-thru traffic" or "local traffic only" signs and metering/access lights similar to those used in parking lots and on highway entrance ramps, that have been rejected. We hope that VDOT will either reconsider these options or propose similarly progressive solutions in the future, especially if the solutions listed above don't have the effect of reducing Waterford's cut-through traffic to levels significantly below those of Route 287.
- Apparently MBI was prohibited by federal environmental law from identifying possible locations for a byway in this year's study. We will ask Loudoun County to approve funding for a follow-up byway feasibility study that will further investigate this long-term option. The community is in favor of the study but remains divided on whether to support construction of a byway.

Thank you for your consideration.

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