

## **Minutes - LHA Transportation Committee at LHA**

(Attendees – Peter Harnik, Richard Price, Jim Todd, Amanda Davis, Tom Kornis, Charlie Flickner, Lucia as ED)

**March 7, 2018 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

### **1. Election of Committee Chair**

Richard Price was nominated as chair, Jim Todd seconded, Committee elected Richard as Chair 3 to 2 abstentions.

### **2. Discussion of Transportation Talking Points**

Richard provided background and the purpose of the drafted talking points, noting these are not intended as policy statements but as a go-to for consistent talking points and supporting the LHA principles on transportation related issues.

#### **Committee members provided the following comments on the Talking Points draft:**

- Recommendation to develop a short phrase and then supporting points
- Need to ensure quick salient points as well as more fleshed out points for varying audiences
- Use simple and expressive terms, i.e. “children” for some of the pedestrians
- Promote biking as a way to alleviate traffic, but concern was noted for too much emphasis on biking
- Let’s explore the possibility of bike-only lanes at select areas within the corridor and/or adjacent to it within contiguous neighborhoods
- Transform Lee Highway from a highway to incorporate a walking experience
- Multi-modal is essential, currently Lee Highway is a vehicle dominated route
- A positive experience environment is desired
- Success will depend on commercial uses, need to support economic growth
- Residents outside of Lee Highway will need parking if we want to encourage commercial patronage
- Teaser parking encourages use of stores, also helps provide a buffer to protect pedestrians along the sidewalks (perception).
- The Lee Highway plan needs to envision Lee Highway 30-50 years in future – desired uses, character, future needs.
- Potential transportation changes are coming need to take this into account.
- What streets do we like – what aspects of them?
  - Mt Vernon
  - Connecticut Ave
  - others?
- Parking facilities will be a need – flat structures with ramps are potentially re-useable
- Connectivity to neighborhoods is critical
- Consider successful strategies –Cherrydale planned crosswalks broken up throughout the length to reduce speed without losing lanes
- Other ways to slow traffic - add visual (focal) points, plant the center, etc. as well as speed enforcement
- Work on adding into the talking points the transferring ownership to Arlington
- Lee Highway is no longer considered an exit route – stated by VDOT during the planning of Rosslyn improvements where Lee Highway is being narrowed to 2 lanes, widening the Custis Trail for bikers and pedestrians.
- Given the deficit in the tax base, the Lee Highway corridor is an opportunity to add to the economic base

- Arlington take over of Lee Highway will be more expensive for Arlington to maintain the road. Only a small amount of money will be provided by the state to help maintain the road.

### **3. Discussion of VDOT Issues**

Jim Todd provided the Committee with an update of the 3/7/18 VDOT meeting with LHA

- The regular check-in meetings with VDOT have been positive. VDOT is seemingly agreeable to considering LHA concerns and issues as well as community desires.
  - VDOT has been historically difficult to deal with – unfriendly for pedestrian issues. However, relationship has improved since the Cherrydale sign meeting.
  - Cherrydale is interested in VDOT permission for up lighting of the I-66 bridge – VDOT is looking into permission and will get back to LHA.
  - Power receptacles exist under I-66 bridge. Would that be a possible tap?
  - Maywood is having issues with the sound wall along Lee Highway and has had trouble getting information about who's responsibility the wall is – Arlington or VDOT. There are two walls, one belongs to each. It would be helpful to set up a meeting with VDOT and the County together.
  - Planting and vines are desired on sound wall – or murals – VDOT agreed this may be possible.
  - Pedestrian lighting is needed under I-66, there is no lighting and it is very dark and uncomfortable to walk at night.
  - The bus stop in Cherrydale is being removed – a possible parklet or parking day demonstration project was mentioned. VDOT was not resistant to the suggestion.
  - Charlie has experienced VDOT successes and project completions, very productive.
  - VDOT confirmed they will be removing lights on the I-66 sign, and they will be painting back of signs. They will also be adding trees where they were removed.
  - Concern was voiced about tree survival.
  - The new median trees are replacing previous trees removed by VDOT for the sign project. They were healthy trees. A hearty species has been chosen by Cherrydale.
  - VDOT was also informed about the communities desire for reducing lanes on Lee Highway (Lee Highway is currently being narrowed in some locations with lane reductions and temporary closures –the community wants to see these changes as permanent solutions)
  - VDOT is adding flashing signs at a Cherrydale Crossing.
- Discussions ensued about history and evolution of Lee Highway.

### **4. Date of Next Meeting – May**

Lucia to send doodle poll for early/ mid-May

Adjourned 7:30