

26th Street & Old Dominion Drive Master Planning Task Force Community Forum Summary

January 12, 2019, 10-12:00 pm - Central Library (Donnellan Auditorium)

Task Force members in attendance:

Noah Simon, Mike Hogan, Anne Wilson, David Palmer, Susan Cunningham, Kathleen Mc Sweeny, Margarita Brose, Kit Norland and Alisa Cowan

Staff attendees:

Greg Emanuel, Lisa Wilson, Matt Mattauszek, Michelle Congdon, Bethany Heim, Jeremy, Shani Kruljac, Mike Collins, Kris Krider and Zach Larnard

1. Chair Introduction and Opening Remarks

- a) General Introductions of Task Force, County Staff & Consultants
- b) Chair's Overview:
 - i. Open sharing of information – all information will be shared with public and the task force. Task Force, County & Public will all be working together in this process.
 - ii. Clarification of recent articles on the project - APS is not looking to add a school to this site, the community **will** get at a minimum of a 1 acre park/open space
 - iii. Review of Task Force schedule
 - iv. Deliverables – 1.) a final report to be very similar to FS#8 TF report and 2.) a Master Plan – a “blueprint” for follow-up with CB for consideration
 - v. Guiding Principles – explanation of established principles and purpose by Task Force on 1/10/19 meeting
 - vi. Outreach efforts
 - 1) Civic Associations
 - 2) Missionhurst
 - 3) Adjacent neighbors
 - vii. Upcoming TF meetings on 1/24 and 2/7 to be What Fits exercises with program elements. This will include discussions about what is appropriate.

2. Public Comment & Question/Answer Session w/ County Staff:

Question: Will the Community have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft of the Master Plan Report before it is completed?

Answer: Noah – yes. That is an important part of the process.

Question: What is the overall budget?

Answer: Cost is not determined because the MP has not been determined yet. MP will be used for future CIP discussions including Phasing. Cost is not a constraint for the MP process.

Question: What are the numbers of County Snow vehicles vs Contractor vehicles?

Answer: 45 County Vehicles (½ North / ½ South) + Contractors services based on snow situation. 23 County Trucks operate out of 26/OD Site. 60% of total Salt loaded at 26/OD site.

Question: Is there a difference between Plow trucks and Salt trucks?

Answer: All County snow trucks do both.

Question: Will 26/OD site have truck storage year round?

Answer: No, trucks ta 26/OD only during storms, except for shift changes.

Comment: Should not take away “Park” space for temporary salt vehicles parking spaces.

Question: Is there intention to increase the amount of year round equipment storage (plows/spreaders – not vehicles)??

Answer: Yes, slight increase.

Question: Is there equipment degradation if equipment is stored outside without cover?

Answer: Yes.

Comment: Concern for losing trees everytime there is a public project (+/- 100 trees with every project. 45% of Arlington County is now paved.)

Question: What is the parking requirement for a “park”? Could this parking be used during a snow event?

Answer: Some parks in the County have no parking. Depends on the facilities in the park. On street parking can count for any requirements.

Comment: Use topography to screen / mitigate operations w/impacts.

Question: Are we trying to minimize the Operations footprint on site?

Answer: Green space is major consideration.

Comment: Would like County facilities to not be augmented or intensified. There is still a Water Tower in the neighborhood. Need to determine what is minimally needed. Concern for maximizing operations for only a few snow days a year.

Question: How often do trucks need to refuel? How often are Spreaders loaded?

Answer: Usually during shift change. Fire Station #8 is used for refueling.

Comment: Need detailed discussion about how the Snow event operations work.

Comment: Operations presentation was a surprise at what was included. More than what is there now. Neighborhood is not being considered.

Question: Is there Traffic Control for vehicles exiting the site?

Answer: Not now. Vehicles have emergency lights and traffic is light during a snow event.

Question: Has Task Force looked at expanding beyond the existing site through land acquisition?

Answer: TF Charge is not to look beyond the site. Task Force can recommend acquisition to County Board. Task Force has reached out to Missionhurst, but they declined to participate in the MP process. Task Force is looking at co-use of existing parking lots at adjacent properties during snow events. Country Club location?

Question: We should think small, not big, for Operations facility. Budget for Park components needs to be secure.

Answer: Noah: Thinking “Big” is to consolidate facilities via co-use and/or undergrounding – not expanding program. Task Force will give budget to the Board for implementation and phasing priorities. Full budget will occur after Master Plan process is done at a project is created.

Question: Do the salt operations as they exist today at 26/OD site provide adequate service for the future?

Answer: County has info that they are not doing a good enough job with the current facility. Operations proposed reduce salt in favor of brine.

Question: Is the Facility intended for snow removal or salting?

Answer: Both. Most complaints are regarding snow removal.

Question: Why will increased operations result in better services ?

Answer: 30-45 min. travel + shift change (now) can be reduced if shift change to Trades Center = 2 hr. down time / Twice a day. Can be handled at 26/OD site. Biggest benefit will come from big storms, which are snow removal events. Complaints start at Day 3 without roads plowed.

Comment: Process is to understand how to increase effectiveness of snow event response, not necessarily adding facilities.

Comment:

- County is getting close to the Debt Limit. Project will cost less with less buildings and pavement.
- Replacement trees do not replace existing tree canopy for many years.
- Leaf storage area – used for emergency storage (Response: just Temporary)
- Snow melt: Can it be used on streets vs Plowing? (Response: Used in high density areas because it is more efficient in dealing with snow removal).

Comment: Need trees & park at Corner. Least view of Operations. Buffer elements are very important.

Comment: Community needs to see more specific plans to fully comment.

Question: Will Emergency Preparedness Facility be included on site?

Answer: Not on this Site program.

Comment: Make Salt Facility as small as possible.

End of Forum event