

**SITE PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA & STAFF REPORT**

DATE: Monday, October 12, 2015
TIME: 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
PLACE: NRECA
4301 Wilson Boulevard
Room CC1
Arlington, VA 22203

SPRC STAFF COORDINATOR: Samia Byrd, 703-228-3525

Item 1. Ballston Quarter (SP #193) 7:00pm–10:00pm
(RPC#s 14-059-028; 14-059-035, -036, and -041; 14-059-044, and -045)
Planning Commission and County Board meetings November 2015.
Samia Byrd (CPHD Staff)

The Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) is comprised of Planning Commission members, representatives from other relevant commissions and several appointed citizens. The SPRC reviews all site plans and major site plan amendments requests, which are submitted to the County Board and the Planning Commission for consideration. The major responsibilities of the SPRC are the following:

1. Review site plan or major site plan amendment requests in detail.
2. Advise the Planning Commission by recommending the appropriate action in regard to a specific plan and any conditions, which it might determine to be necessary or appropriate.
3. Provide a forum by which interested citizens, civic associations and neighborhood conservation committees can review and comment on a particular plan, or the effects that the proposed project might have on the neighborhood.

In order to save copying costs, staff has selectively chosen the reduced drawings to be included in this package. The complete full size drawings are available for review in the Arlington County Zoning Office, 10th Floor, Courthouse Plaza, 2100 Clarendon Boulevard and also in the Central Library's Virginia Room, 1015 N. Quincy St., (703) 228-5990.

For more information on the Arlington County Planning Commission, go to their web site
<http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/>

For more information on the Site Plan public review process, go to the Arlington County Planning Division's web site on Development Proposals/Site Plans
http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/Planning/applications/site_plans/CPHDPlanningApplicationsSite_plansMain.aspx

To view the current Site Plan Review Committee schedule, go to the web site
<http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/sprc/>

ITEM 1

SP #193 Ballston Quarter
4100 Wilson Boulevard (RPC# 14-059-028)
4238 Wilson Boulevard, 671 and 627 N. Glebe Road (RPC# 14-059-035, -036 and -041)
701 and 685 N. Glebe Road (RPC# 14-059-044 and -045)

SPRC Meeting #5, Monday, October 12, 2015 (Columbus Day, County Open)

- 1) Review and Responses to SPRC #4, SPRC Chair, Applicant, Staff (7:00-7:30 pm)
- 2) Signs (7:30-8:00 pm)
- 3) Community Benefits (8:00-9:00 pm)
- 4) Ballston Quarter Vision – What to Expect, Applicant (9:00-9:15 pm)
- 5) Summary and Wrap Up, SPRC, Staff, SPRC Chair (9:15-10:00 pm)

Site Location: 585,079 square foot site (13.43 acres) located in the Ballston Metro Station area on the block generally bounded by Wilson Boulevard to the north, N. Randolph Street to the east and N. Glebe Road to the south.

Applicant Information – Residential Building

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Traffic Consultant

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Applicant Information – Mall Renovation

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Applicant Information – Office Renovation

Applicant

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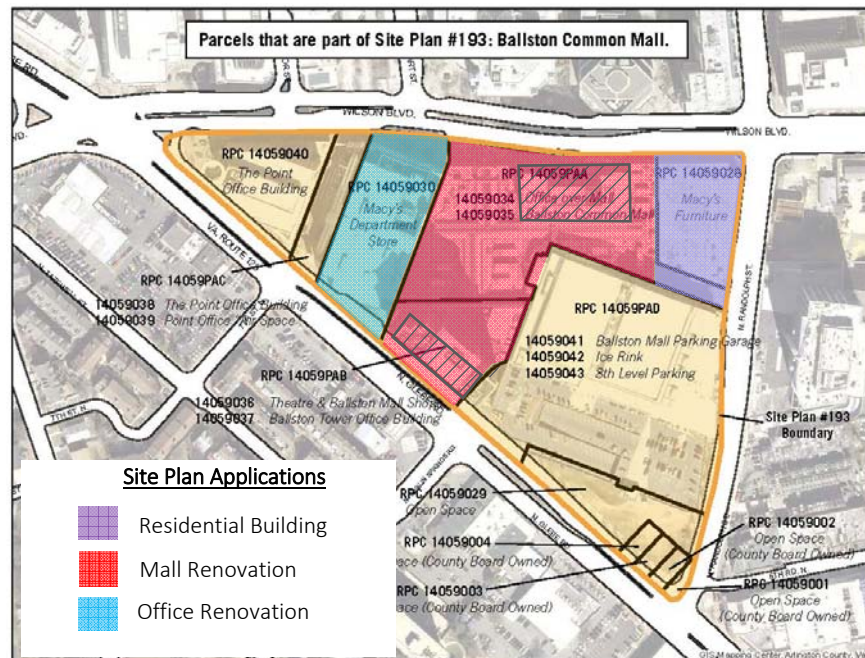
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BACKGROUND: The Ballston Common site plan (SP #193) is a multiple building site plan that has been developed in phases over time. With the 1980 adoption of the [Ballston Sector Plan](#), planning and land use goals for the Ballston Metro Station Area have established the Metro Station and the Ballston Common Shopping Mall as the focal point for development. The Ballston Common Shopping Mall was developed through a cooperative venture between Arlington County and a private developer and opened in 1986. It replaced the Parkington Shopping Center which was constructed in 1952, and established a major retail center in Arlington.

With changes in the economy and approaches to development and redevelopment of shopping malls throughout the country, Ballston Common Shopping Mall is primed for development through continued cooperation with the County in ensuring that the long term planning goals and

vision for the area are met. The vision for development of the Ballston Common site, from Parkington in the 1950s to Ballston Galleria and Ballston Common in the 1980s and now as proposed, Ballston Quarter, remains unchanged. As further detailed in this report, the County’s vision has consistently sought to “facilitate the creation of a dynamic downtown area by ensuring that development would include a mix of commercial, office and residential uses” ([Ballston Sector Plan Summary](#)). Development of the Ballston Common site and Ballston Common Shopping Mall is and has always been key to implementation of this vision. To that end, three site plan amendment applications have been filed to modify the Ballston Common site plan (SP #193):

1. *Residential Building (Ballston Acquisition, LLC)* to demolish the existing Macy’s Home Furniture store located at the corner of Wilson Boulevard and N. Randolph Street to permit construction of a 22-story residential building with ground floor and second story retail.
2. *Mall Renovation (FC Ballston Common, LLC)* to modify the existing three-story retail mall with façade improvements, interior improvements, the addition of an open space plaza and mews, streetscape improvements, and improvements to the Ballston Common parking garage; and
3. *Office Renovation (Ballston Air Rights, LLC)* to modify the existing six-story office building above Macy’s department store including façade improvements, the addition of new entrances on Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard, an interior courtyard, and streetscape improvements.



The following provides additional information about the site and location.

Site: The 13.43-acre, triangular shaped site is located in Ballston on the block bounded by Wilson Boulevard to the north, N. Randolph Street to the east and Glebe Road to the south. Adjacent and surrounding land uses are as follows:

- To the north: Across Wilson Boulevard, SP #20, the Liberty Center multiple building, mixed use development east of N. Randolph Street, immediately adjacent, SP #239, Lincoln Towers site plan – multiple building, mixed use development; Site Plan #256, Stuart Park multifamily residential, and SP #249 NRECA and the Ellipse at Ballston; Zoned “C-O-A” and designated as Coordinated Mixed Use Development district on the GLUP.
- To the west: Immediately west of the Point office building across Wilson and Glebe, is the Peck Staples/AHC site plan, SP #401; Zoned “C-O-2.5” and designated “Medium” Office Apartment Hotel on the GLUP.
- To the east: SP #413, Founders Square multiple building, mixed use site plan including a 20-story office building immediately adjacent to the site and a 17-story residential building, 13-story secure office building, 11-story hotel and a one-story retail building; Zoned “C-O-2.5” and designated as “Medium” Office Apartment Hotel on the GLUP. Also, American Service Center zoned “CM” and designated as “Medium” Office Apartment Hotel on the GLUP.
- To the south: Across Glebe Road, SP #72 including Harris Teeter grocery store, American Service Center and the recently constructed Maxwell multifamily residential project located at 650 Glebe zoned “C-O-2.5”, “C-2” and “R-C” and designated “Low Medium” Residential, “Medium” Residential, and “High Medium” Residential Mixed Use on the GLUP, respectively. One-story by-right commercial development including an Exxon gas station and 670 Glebe currently zoned “C-2” and designated as “High Medium” Residential Mixed Use on the GLUP. Proposed development of 178 units residential with ground floor retail and rezoning to “R-C”; 750 Glebe Road developed currently with the commercial uses to include the Rosenthal Mazda dealership and Enterprise Rental Car; Zoned “C-2”, “R-5” and “RA 8-18” and designated as High-Medium Residential Mixed Use on the GLUP.



Zoning: The site is zoned “C-O-2.5” Mixed Use District.

General Land Use Plan Designation: The site is designated “Medium” Office Apartment Hotel on the GLUP which permits up to 2.5 FAR office commercial, 115 units per acre apartment, and 180 units per acre hotel.

Neighborhood: The site is located within the Ashton Heights Civic Association. It is adjacent to the Ballston Virginia Square, Bluemont and Buckingham Civic Associations.

Existing Development: In 1982, the County Board approved a GLUP amendment, rezoning and site plan to permit the redevelopment of the Parkington Shopping Center as Ballston Galleria. The approval included renovation of the existing Hecht’s store, construction of a new mall, department store and shops, construction of three office buildings and the addition of three new levels of parking to an existing parking garage. Although not identified specifically as a Phased Development Site Plan (PDSP), the approval allowed for an overall program of development on the more than 13-acre site, to be allocated to multiple buildings and uses that would be constructed in phases over time. As the site plan has been amended from time to time by the County Board, it is currently approved today for approximately 1,679,628 square feet of office and retail development, as well as an ice rink facility on top of an 8-level parking garage providing 3,450 spaces.

| Use | Approved GFA (SF) |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Office | 850,000 |
| Retail | 662,660 |
| Flex Use Office/Retail | 25,000 |
| Ice Skating Facility | 141,968 |

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| TOTAL | 1,679,628 |
| | 2.87 FAR |

As built, the approved uses on the site total approximately 1,535,163 square feet of gross floor area.

| Built Gross Floor Area – SP #193 | |
|---|-----------|
| | GFA (SF) |
| Macy's/Hecht's | 348,514 |
| Macy's Home Furniture Store | 120,000 |
| Mall | 220,000 |
| 4200 Wilson Office | 183,691 |
| Glebe Road Office | 252,443 |
| Point Office | 268,547 |
| Ice Skating Facility | 141,968 |
| Total | 1,535,163 |

Development Potential:

| Site Plan Area: 585,079 sq ft | DENSITY ALLOWED/TYPICAL USE | MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| "C-O-2.5" By-Right | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Uses and Permitted in "R-6" Offices, business and professional, including medical, legal, insurance, philanthropic, real estate, banking and other offices, which in the judgment of the Zoning Administrator, are of the same general character as those listed above. Uses customarily incidental to any of the above uses and accessory buildings, when located on the same lot, including automobile parking garage for the exclusive use of the patrons of the above offices. | 6,000 sq ft Lot One-Family Dwelling: 97 Dwellings .60 FAR: 351,074 sq ft GFA all other uses |
| "C-O-2.5" Site Plan | Office buildings, commercial uses including retail and service commercial uses, hotels and apartment buildings. | 2.5 FAR Commercial/ Office/ Industrial: 1,462,697.5 sf GFA 115 DU/Acre Residential: 1,544 Units 180 DU/Acre Hotel: 2,417 Rooms |
| Approved by Site Plan ¹ | Office, Retail and Ice Skating Facility | 2.87 FAR Commercial/Office uses: 1,679,628 sf |

¹ Includes total approved GFA with bonus and density exclusions, of which not all has been built.

Proposed Development: The following table sets forth the preliminary statistical summary for the overall site plan as proposed to be amended through each of the three requests:

| Use | Approved GFA (SF) | Proposed GFA (SF) | Change GFA (SF) |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Office | 850,000 | 864,838 ² | +14,838 |
| Retail | 662,660 | 623,647 ³ | -39,013 |
| Flex Use Office/Retail | 25,000 | 25,000 | --- |
| Ice Skating Facility | 141,968 | 141,968 | --- |
| Residential | 0 | 388,395 | +388,395 |
| TOTAL | 1,679,628 | 2,043,848 | +364,220 |
| | 2.87 FAR | 3.49 FAR | +0.62 FAR |

The following tables sets forth the preliminary statistical summary for the proposed new residential building, the mall renovation and office renovation, respectively.

| Residential Building | Proposed |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Site Area | 87,068 sf (1.99 Ac) ⁴ |
| Residential Site Area | 87,068 sf (1.99 Ac) |
| Office Commercial Site Area | 0 sf (0 Ac) |
| Density⁵ | |
| Office Commercial GFA | 66,475 sf |
| Retail | 66,475 sf |
| Office Commercial Density | 1.3 FAR |
| Residential GFA | 388,395 sf |
| Residential Units | 406 Units |
| Residential Density | 203 DU/Acre |
| LEED Bonus (.25 FAR Silver Certification) GFA | 21,767 sf |
| LEED Bonus Units | 23 Units ⁶ |
| “C-O-2.5” Max. Permitted Office/Commercial GFA⁷ | 0 sq ft |
| “C-O-2.5” Max. Permitted Office/Commercial Density | 2.5 FAR |
| “C-O-2.5” Max. Permitted Residential Units | 229 Units |
| “C-O-2.5” Max. Permitted Residential Density | 115 DU/Acre |
| Height | |
| Average Site Elevation | 270.93 ft |
| Residential Building | 22 Stories |
| Main Roof Elevation | 507.67 ft |
| Main Roof Height | 236.74 ft |
| Penthouse Roof Elevation | 533.00 ft |
| Penthouse Roof Height | 262.07 ft |
| Penthouse Height | 25.33 ft |
| “C-O-2.5” Max. Permitted Residential Height | 16 Stories |

² Includes the addition of a net total of 14,838 sf proposed with the renovation of the office building above Macy’s

³ Includes the proposed addition of 66,475 sf of retail in the residential building, 14,512 sf of retail at the renovated mall and the reduction of 120,000 sf of retail associated with the Macy’s Home Furniture Store.

⁴ This site area is calculated site area based on approved, built and proposed GFA for density purposes.

⁵ Not included in the gross floor area is 14,560 square feet proposed to be excluded for vertical shafts (10,235 sf), below grade building maintenance and storage (920 sf), retail service corridors at grade and above (1,375 sf), pedestrian access corridors between the County garage and the Retail concourse (1,120 sf), and below grade residential storage (920 sf).

⁶ Based on average unit size of 956.64 square feet as provided by the Applicant.

⁷ No area of the site is permitted to be used more than once for a particular use. As proposed, the entirety of the site area would be allocated to the residential use, and therefore, there would be no office commercial density permitted for this site plan amendment.

| Residential Building | Proposed |
|---|--|
| Parking | |
| Commercial Parking Spaces ⁸ | 0 |
| Residential Parking Spaces | 288 |
| Standard | 242 |
| Compact | 37 (12.8%) |
| Handicap | 9 |
| Residential Parking Ratio | .70 sp/unit |
| Office Commercial Parking Ratio – Site Plan Standard | 1 space per 580 sq ft GFA (89 Spaces) |
| Residential Parking Ratio – Site Plan Standard | 1 space per unit (406 Spaces) |
| LEED | Silver Certification Level |
| Residential Building – LEED (NC) | 50 Points |

| Mall Renovation | Existing | Proposed | Difference |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| Density | | | |
| Office Commercial GFA | 311,443 sf | 325,995 sf | +14,512 sf |
| Height | 3 Stories | 3 Stories | No Change |
| Parking | 3,450 ⁹ | No Change | No change |

| Office Renovation | Existing | Proposed | Difference |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Density | | | |
| Office Commercial GFA | 141,992 sf | 153,563 sf | +14,838 sf |
| Height | 6 Stories | No Change | No Change |
| Parking | 3,450 ¹⁰ | No Change | No Change |
| LEED | Silver Certification Level | | |
| Office Renovation – LEED (CS) | 50 Points | | |

Density and Uses: The site’s current zoning of “C-O-2.5” permits by site plan office buildings, commercial uses including retail and service commercial uses, hotels and apartment buildings, the purpose of which is to provide for redevelopment in the Metro Corridors at the County Board’s discretion. The site’s GLUP designation, which is consistent with the current zoning, “Medium” Office Apartment Hotel provides for the development of up to 2.5 FAR office, commercial and/or industrial use, 115 dwelling units per acre of residential and 180 units per acre hotel. With the subject site plan amendment, it is proposed that a 22-story, multifamily building with 388,395 square feet in 406 residential units and 66,475 square feet of ground floor retail would be added to the Ballston Common site plan. In addition, the existing Home Furniture Store comprised of approximately 120,000 square feet would be demolished and with the proposed renovations to the mall and the office building above Macy’s, there would be a net increase of approximately 14,512 square feet of retail gross floor area and approximately 14,838 square feet of gross floor area of office, respectively.

⁸ Although GFA is proposed to be added with the site plan amendment to construct the residential building, with the removal of the Home Furniture Store, the impact on the overall site plan is a total amount of reduced retail GFA. The applicant does not propose to provide any new parking with the retail for the residential building but consistent with the site plan approval provide for retail parking in the Ballston Common Parking garage.

⁹ The County Board approved a total of 3,450 parking spaces for the site plan for office and commercial uses.

¹⁰ Same as above

To date, approximately 1,535,163 square feet of the 1,679,628 of approved density has been built. Approximately 144,465 square feet of density therefore remains for the site plan. As previously shown in the tables above, a total of 364,220 square feet of additional density is proposed to be added to the site plan through the three site plan amendment applications. With 144,465 square feet of unused density remaining for the site plan, approximately 219,755 square feet is requested in bonus density. With the major site plan amendment to construct the residential building, the applicant requests .25 FAR bonus density for certification of the building under the LEED Silver level rating. Similarly, with the site plan amendment application to renovate the office building above Macy's the applicant requests .20 FAR bonus density with a commitment to certify the building's renovation at the LEED Silver rating as well as an additional .10 FAR for Energy Star building certification. The remaining unbuilt site plan density and density that would result from the demolition of the Home Furniture Store is proposed to be used with the renovation of the mall and the development of the residential building. However, approximately 183,150 square feet of bonus residential and retail GFA in the residential building would be achieved through the provision of public amenities resulting from the redevelopment of the mall in furthering the County's long-term planning goals and vision for the site.

Site and Design: With the subject site plan amendments, the three-story Home Furniture Store anchoring the corner of Wilson Boulevard and N. Randolph Street would be demolished and replaced with a new 22-story, residential building with a two-story base of retail. Four levels of below grade parking would provide access to 288 parking spaces for the residential building. Access to loading and parking is proposed to be from the existing mall loading entrance on N. Randolph Street and would be shared with the mall loading activities. Proposed retail would front onto Wilson Boulevard where there is also proposed an open air mews leading to a vestibule and entrance to the residential building. The main entrance to the residential building is proposed to be located on N. Randolph Street. The two-story retail base would be comprised of limestone cladding and a store front window system. The residential building above which steps back from the retail base would be comprised mainly of a vision glass and alum curtain wall, with metal panel claddings and glass balconies. A potential retail terrace is proposed at the top of the second story retail base. The roof proposes a pool and pool deck and an enclosed penthouse structure that would include residential amenity spaces. An outdoor view terrace is also proposed on the roof. The Applicant further proposes streetscape and landscape improvements along the frontage of the proposed building on Wilson Boulevard and N. Randolph Street.



The renovations to the existing mall would provide for substantial façade improvements on the Wilson Boulevard frontage and the introduction of an open space plaza that would be created by removing the existing pedestrian bridge across Wilson Boulevard, eliminating the existing mall entrance and opening the area up to the sky by removing the mall roof at this location. A new, re-aligned pedestrian bridge is proposed to be constructed across Wilson Boulevard to connect to the mall adjacent to the open space plaza. The plaza would step down from Wilson Boulevard into what is currently the food court area. In addition, substantial interior renovations would provide for the removal of the roof above the existing interior corridor east of the plaza to provide for a mezzanine that is open to the sky above. Façade improvements would provide for a warehouse look on the mall’s exterior along Wilson Boulevard while the Glebe Road frontage would provide new steel-framed awnings with glass panels and metal fascia as enhancements to the ground floor tenant spaces below the office building. No changes to parking or loading are proposed with the site plan amendment to renovate the mall. The applicant further proposes streetscape and landscape improvements along the frontage of the mall on Wilson Boulevard and Glebe Road and public improvements such as upgraded elevators in the parking garage, new elevator lobbies connecting between the garage and the mall, new stairs connecting each level of the mall with each level of the garage, and new escalators providing direct connectivity between the Iceplex and the mall. These improvements to vertical circulation are collectively referred to as “the Blade”.





Finally, the proposed improvements to the office renovations include façade renovations primarily to floors three through six of the existing office building above Macy's to provide for an aluminum and glass window wall system with aluminum banding accents for each floor. New glass entry structures are proposed to be added on the northeast corner of the Macy's building on Wilson Boulevard and southeast corner of Macy's building on Glebe Road. A new penthouse is proposed to be clad with aluminum panels. An interior courtyard will be added to the building, as well. The exterior of the Macy's below the office building is proposed to be repaired and repainted with the addition of new metal canopies and awnings to replace those existing. Finally, landscape improvements are proposed along the frontages of the building. No changes are proposed to parking or loading with the renovations.



LEED: The applicant proposes that both the renovated office building and the proposed residential building would be certified under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program at the Silver level rating. Bonus density consistent with the County's *Green Building Density Incentive Program for Site Plan Projects* is requested for both buildings at .20 FAR for the office building and .25 FAR for the residential building. An additional .10 FAR is proposed for the renovated office building for Energy Star certification.

Transportation: The proposed site plan amendments are all located within the Ballston Common Mall area of Ballston, in the block bound by Wilson Boulevard, North Randolph Street, and North Glebe Road. The site is accessible by multiple modes of transportation, including Metrorail, bikeshare, carshare, and ART and Metrobus, all within ¼ mile of the site.

Streets: The [*Master Transportation Plan*](#) (MTP) identifies Wilson Boulevard as a Type A-Primarily Retail Oriented Mixed-Use Arterial and N. Glebe Road and N. Randolph Street are identified as Type B-Primarily Urban Mixed-Use Arterials. Adjacent to the site, between N. Stuart Street and N. Randolph Street, Wilson Boulevard has four travel lanes, two in each direction, with an additional eastbound lane at Randolph that is a dedicated left turn lane and a small pocket for right turns. The travel lanes are separated by a large median that has trees and a fence to encourage pedestrians to utilize the existing crossings, including a signalized mid-block crossing. There is also parking on both sides of the street. North Randolph Street is one travel lane in each direction and several turn lanes as necessary. On the west side of the street there is parking and a bus stop north of the existing parking garage entrance, and tour bus parking only south of the parking garage entrance. North Glebe Road has three travel lanes in each direction and an additional two lanes in the southbound direction for left turns into the existing parking garage at Carlin Springs Road. North Glebe Road is owned by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and any proposed improvements will have to be approved by VDOT.

The Applicant is proposing to remove parallel parking spaces on Glebe Road in front of the Macy's department store and provide off-peak parking from N. Randolph Street to the Macy's mall parking lot. Glebe Road is owned by the state and all changes will need approval of VDOT. The proposed amendment for the residential building would install new bus shelters in the same general location as the existing bus stops. The street section is proposed to remain as it current exists today. The Wilson Boulevard street section and streetscape adjacent to the site is proposed to be revised to be more pedestrian friendly with a reduction in the street width to provide additional width for streetscape and installation of a nub at the northwest and southwest corners of the intersection with N. Randolph Street.

Sidewalk and Pedestrian Circulation: There are currently sidewalks along the entire site frontage. The proposed sidewalk on N. Glebe Road is proposed to be upgraded with new trees, streetlights, and a concrete sidewalk. A granite "carpet" treatment is proposed at the mall and office entrances along the entire width of the sidewalk. Also, two planting beds are proposed to be installed adjacent to the Macy's building. The sidewalk on N. Randolph Street is proposed to remain at its existing overall width, with a minimum 10' clear sidewalk, except at the bus shelters, and 5x12 tree pits. The surface is proposed to be concrete with an area of granite

“carpet” treatment at the residential building entrance. The Wilson Boulevard streetscape is proposed to be widened to include a minimum 10’ clear sidewalk and 5x12 tree pits, as well. The surface is proposed to be concrete with two areas of granite pavers at the entry to the muse and plaza area. Additional streetscape elements are proposed at the plaza and Macy’s frontage to include benches and planters. There are also two existing covered pedestrian bridges, one over Wilson Boulevard and one over 9th Street North that connect the Ballston Common Mall to the Metro Station. The Applicant proposes to remove the pedestrian bridge over Wilson Boulevard and construct a new re-aligned bridge over Wilson Boulevard as part of the site plan amendment to renovate the mall.

Trip Generation: A Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) prepared by Wells and Associated dated June 8, 2015 was submitted by the Applicant as part of the site plan amendment to construct the residential building. The analysis assesses the impact of the development on the adjacent street network and takes into account additional traffic generated by approved unbuilt projects and vacant retail space within the Ballston Mall. The analysis also utilizes trip reductions based on transit use, pass-by trips, and complimentary uses within the site. After the appropriate reductions, the analysis concludes that approximately 320 AM peak hour trips and 1,041 PM peak trips will be generated by the residential building and all the retail uses within the mall. This is approximately 86 additional AM peak hour trips and 40 additional PM peak hour trips, and 299 more daily vehicle trips than the existing use.

All intersection movements within the study area will continue to operate at a LOS D or better under existing conditions, with the exception of the westbound left turn at the intersection of N. Randolph Street and N. Glebe Road and the following movements at the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and N. Glebe Road:

- Eastbound left turn in the AM and PM peak hour;
- Eastbound through movement in the AM peak hour;
- Westbound left turn in the PM peak hour; and
- Northbound through/right movement in the AM peak hour.

In the future, all intersection movements within the study area will continue to operate as they do under the existing conditions with the exception of the southbound left turn at N. Randolph Street and N. Glebe Road and southbound left turn at Wilson Boulevard and N. Glebe Road. These two movements have a LOS worse than D in the future conditions regardless of the proposed development.

Parking and Loading: No additional parking or loading docks are proposed to support the retail or office tenants. Existing loading docks within the mall footprint accessed from N. Randolph Street will be utilized for loading and trash related to the mall and office. Three loading spaces are proposed within the existing loading area to support the residential building. Parking is currently provided within the adjacent public garage and will remain as currently allocated for the mall and office buildings. The proposed residential building will provide an underground garage with 288 parking spaces (0.70 spaces/unit ratio) and a 13% compact ratio. This parking ratio is less parking than the site plan standard of 1 space per unit for residential uses. The

proposed parking is accessed from the existing loading dock on N. Randolph Street, therefore all loading, trash, and residential parking will be utilizing the same driveway.

Public Transit: Within ¼ mile of the site there are numerous public transit options. The Ballston-MU Metro Station (Orange Line) is located approximately two blocks from the site. Adjacent to the site is one bus stop on N. Randolph Street south of Wilson Boulevard that serves the Metrobus and ART systems, including the Metrobus routes 10B, 22A, 22B, 22C, 23A, 23B, and 23T and ART route 41. Numerous additional bus stops are located near the site including on both sides of Wilson Boulevard at N. Taylor Street, on the east side of N. Randolph Street across from the site, on N. Randolph Street south of the parking garage entrance, and on N. Glebe Road at Carlin Springs Road. Two bikeshare stations are located within one block of the site and eight Zipcar spaces are within ¼ mile of the site, near the Ballston Metro Station.

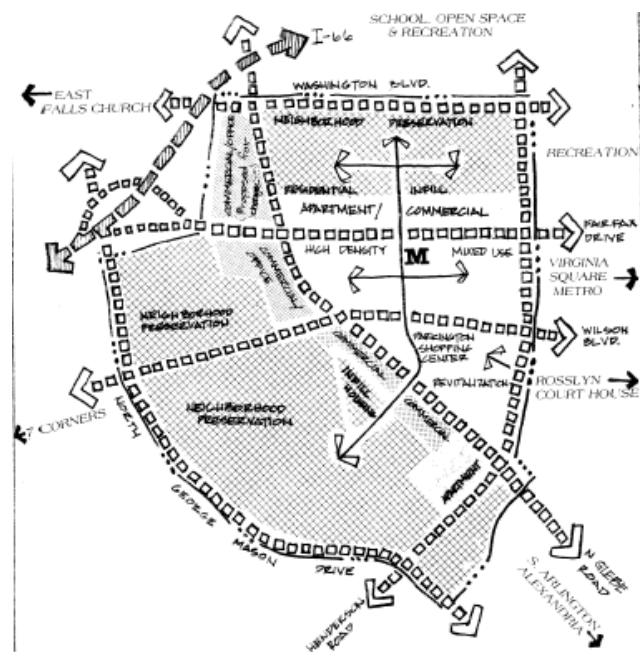
DISCUSSION

Adopted Plans and Policies: The station area concept for Ballston/Marymount University as provided on the GLUP Map is “high density office and residential uses with a regional shopping facility forming a new downtown in Central Arlington.” A balance of residential and office/hotel/retail development, transportation access through Metro, I-66, Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard, Regional shopping facilities (Ballston Common Mall), and commercial growth and revitalization are all noted on the map as plan features.

In addition to the GLUP and Zoning, the 1980 [Ballston Sector Plan](#) (Plan) provides guidance in understanding the vision and framework for long-term and continued development of the Ballston Common site. The site is located within the Central Ballston sub-area of the Ballston Station Area of the Plan. The Plan provides for a list of recommendations adopted by the County Board. One recommendation which is specifically related to “Commercial Development” and is relevant to the site plan site states: “The County Board should continue to encourage major revitalization of commercial facilities in Ballston. Emphasis should be placed on Parkington...”

A Concept Plan shown here identifies the Parkington Shopping Center site for revitalization. The Plan references the GLUP as establishing the basis for high density office and residential development opportunities immediately around the Metro station. The high density uses together with the regional shopping facility, the Plan notes provide for a major focus for a new downtown in Central Arlington.

Another illustration in the Plan notes that the existing commercial development is a key asset in the community and further that Parkington provides a focus for commercial



expansion. It historically notes that the construction of Parkington in the early 1950s, became the “catalyst for additional commercial development along the major thoroughfares in the area.”

Urban Design guidelines in the Plan provide the following that may be considered relevant to the development vision for the site:

Coordinate Streetscape:

- At least 50% of all building facades at street grade should be designed with storefront windows, open glass or other transparent material.
- The use of pictographs is encouraged in private directional and information signs.
- Blank, uninterrupted walls should be discouraged along public rights-of-way.

Commercial Facilities:

- Commercial space is encouraged along the major streets that provide high pedestrian and vehicular visibility. The Metro station, Glebe Road, Fairfax Drive, Wilson Boulevard and Parkington provide a framework for new commercial space.
- Commercial space should generally be located in at-grade locations with direct and convenient access to pedestrian facilities.
- Sidewalks in commercial areas should range from 10 to 20 feet in width in addition to the planting and utility strip.
- Sidewalk cafes, attractive signing, kiosks, street vendors and special lighting arrangements should be encouraged to provide activity and interest along shopping streets.
- Where feasible, provide short-term parking near shopping facilities.
- Placement of signs for shops and businesses placed within a three-foot band, 15-feet above sidewalk grade to create visual interest, with a variety of colors and designs encouraged.

Urban Plazas and Open Spaces:

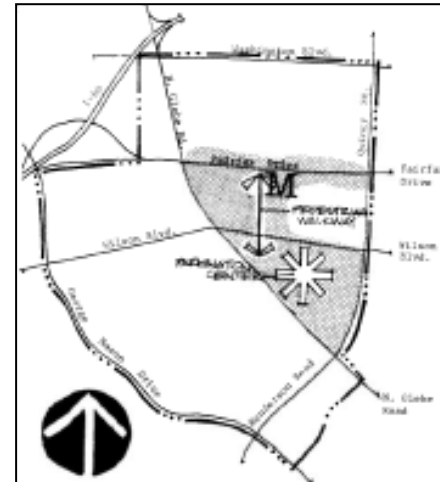
- Encourage development of functional and aesthetically pleasing open space in site plan projects.
- Plazas should be approved at locations that are visible from the street to provide interest and variation in the streetscape.
- Plazas designed for public use should be located at-grade with convenient access to the public sidewalk.
- Open space and plazas that blend with shopping facilities can provide a focus for shopping areas but placement must be handled carefully to avoid disruption of continuity along the shopping streets.
- Plazas for public use should be a minimum of 750 sf.
- Plazas should contain a minimum of one tree per 500 sf, one linear foot of seating per 50 sf and 150 sf of grass or groundcover per 1,000 sf of area.
- Encourage inclusion of aesthetic features such as fountains, statues, and sculpture in urban plazas as part of the site plan process with emphasis on obtaining the features as

aesthetic focal points in highly visible locations, of which Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard are named.

In discussing land use and zoning for the Central Ballston sub-area, the Plan notes again the significance of high density office and apartment development as a major focal point in Ballston and the GLUP supporting commercial growth and revitalization of the Parkington Shopping Center. Further discussion of commercial development provides that Parkington was a significant contributing factor in changing the character of Ballston from a neighborhood to a regional commercial destination. In reference to commercial growth potential, the plan states “the General Land Use Plan and appropriate zoning categories do not place constraints on commercial growth in Ballston; the extent of commercial space will instead be defined by market considerations.” Further the Plan provides that “there are a number of existing and planned features in Ballston which support commercial growth. Ballston is established as a commercial center and new office and apartment development will have a positive impact on commercial demand.”

In the framework for future development, the Commercial District Concept in the Plan provides:

- Pedestrian Mall
 - Recognition of the Stuart Street Walkway between the Metro Station and Parkington as a commitment to providing a quality pedestrian system and commercial revitalization. The extension of the walkway was encouraged through the site plan process as redevelopment occurs on adjacent portions of Wilson Boulevard and Fairfax Drive.
- Parkington
 - Acknowledges that the then proposal for redevelopment of Parkington to include approximately 800,000 sf of commercial, two department stores, the mall and parking garage would involve substantial participation by the County. One of the means of participation referenced was a publicly funded parking garage.



The evaluation of the proposal to redevelop Parkington as Ballston Galleria was underway indicating the important contribution that commercial facilities in Ballston provide to the community. The Plan notes that the emphasis of Parkington was due to its status as a commercial facility and the owner’s interest in renovating it. The County continued to encourage that the revitalization of Parkington was a desirable element of the Ballston Plan and that the revitalization of Parkington fit well into the GLUP policy and sector plan discussion.

Finally, as it relates to transportation, the Plan envisions retaining much of the existing street system. However, as redevelopment occurs, the Plan notes that where widening of streets, closings, and operational changes, construction of curb and gutter and walkway improvements is planned, it should be achieved.

The [Rosslyn to Ballston Corridor Retail Action Plan](#) adopted in May 2001 provides that the downtown theme for the Ballston station area is “the ‘in town’ destination for lifestyle goods and entertainment.” The Plan notes the following constraints, however:

- Ballston Common Mall functions as a self-contained facility that does not open out onto the street. The lack of visual interest along the street front inhibits the center’s ability to draw potential shoppers from elsewhere in the district.
- Because of the formidable competition from Tysons Corner and the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City in fashion and apparel, Ballston Common Mall is being repositioned in the marketplace. This has left the mall with vacant storefronts which inhibit the center’s ability to draw shoppers.
- Ballston has considerable parking resources including the Ballston Garage, on-street parking and thousands of spaces in below grade parking garages. However, parking is still considered to be a problem by both merchants and customers. Specific concerns include lack of destination and directional signage, uncertainty about access and availability (particularly in the evening and on weekends) and high prices for short term parking.
- The wide width of Wilson Boulevard, Fairfax Drive and Glebe Road and the perception that the automobile is given preference over the pedestrian result in an unfriendly and sometimes dangerous pedestrian environment that discourages residents and workers from fully utilizing the retail and services in the area.
- Ballston generally lacks the level of maintenance or public improvements in the form of banners, plantings or other decorative elements that are expected of a premiere downtown and that support a viable retail environment.

In the proposed retail strategy noted in the *Retail Action Plan*, the Wilson Boulevard frontage of the site plan is identified as “Entertainment and Main Street Retailing in enhanced pedestrian environments with upgraded streetscapes. Wilson Boulevard and N. Randolph Street site frontages are identified as “concentrations of large format retailers along pedestrian friendly major arterials and regional or sub-regional shopping centers. The site plan site is marked as “principal retail concentrations.”

The [Arlington County Retail Plan](#) adopted by the County Board in July 2015, in updating this policy provides the following related to regional shopping centers:

Due to the size and placement within the Ballston and Pentagon City neighborhoods, the centers must increase placemaking efforts – pulling storefronts to the street, creating multiple entry points and creating activity and attractions on the outside as well as inside. To encourage and facilitate such changes, the County must allow for the flexibility and creativity required for the repositioning of these regional centers. Strategic thinking and land use planning around these large pieces of retail infrastructure will be an important element in enhancing the centers. New tools, or a combination of existing tools, must be identified to address specific development parameters within a specific location. These tools must allow for creativity, additional and interesting signs for businesses along the outside of the center

as well as those within, and for facades and architectural features that reflect the types of uses within the center. These tools might also provide for more flexibility in potential height and density to facilitate and accelerate such redevelopment and accommodate complementary uses and future customers.”

In the adopted Plan, the N. Randolph Street frontage as well as the N. Glebe Road frontage between N. Randolph and 7th Streets is proposed to change from “large format” to “Blue”. Blue denotes streets planned for any type of retail use or retail equivalent as permitted by the Zoning Ordinance. The frontage along Wilson Boulevard remains unchanged, a principal shopping and dining street and with the exception of the Point Office building site, the site plan is identified as a “Regional Shopping Center.”

Modification of Use Regulations: Section 15.5.7.A of the Zoning Ordinance provides that, “the County Board may, in appropriate cases, modify the uses permitted and regulations in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the district taking into consideration several specified factors. Under this provision, the Applicant requests the following modifications:

Density: The Applicant of the residential building proposes 406 residential units and 66,475 square feet of retail gross floor area. As proposed, 229 residential units (115 units per acre) would be permitted based on the “C-O-2.5” zoning district with no land area remaining to be allocated to retail, and therefore density for the retail use. The Applicant requests a modification of use regulation to permit an additional 177 dwelling units and the total of 66,475 square feet of retail gross floor area. In exchange for the provision of additional density for the residential building the applicant proposes that the building would be certified as LEED Silver consistent with the *County’s Green Building Density Incentive Program for Site Plan Projects* (.25 FAR or 23 units), and the remainder to be achieved in exchange for the provision of public improvements and amenities to achieve long term planning goals and vision of the County for the site.

In addition, the Applicant requests that approximately 14,560 square feet of gross floor area not be counted in the density calculations for the residential building:

- 10,235 sf – mechanical shafts;
- 920 sf – below grade building maintenance and storage;
- 1,375 sf – retail service corridors at grade and above;
- 1,120 sf – pedestrian access corridor between the County garage and the retail concourse;
- and
- 910 sf – below grade residential storage.

With the office renovation, it is proposed that there would be an additional 14,838 square feet of net gross floor area. The Applicant of the office renovation proposes LEED Silver Certification and Energy Star certification pursuant to the County’s *Green Building Density Incentive Program for Site Plan Projects* (.20 FAR for office projects and .10 FAR, Energy Star or EBOM) in exchange for this additional density.

Height: The “C-O-2.5” zoning district permits a maximum height for residential buildings of 16 stories. The Applicant’s proposed residential building would be 22 stories. The Applicant therefore requests a modification of use regulation for height to permit the construction of six additional stories above that permitted.

Parking: A total of 288 below grade parking spaces are proposed for the residential use and no additional parking is proposed for the 66,475 square feet of gross floor area to be added for retail use. The Applicant requests a modification of use regulation to permit parking for the residential use at .70 spaces per dwelling unit. The site plan standard for residential parking use is one space per unit.

Penthouse and Rooftop Uses: The proposed residential building would include amenity spaces in the penthouse and a pool on the roof. The “C-O-2.5” zoning district permits private clubs, auditoriums, meeting rooms and restaurants as uses within enclosed penthouses. The Applicant of the residential building specifically proposes residential amenities within the penthouse, not otherwise listed as being permitted in the Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, a modification of use regulation is requested to incorporate amenity space in the penthouse. Similarly, because a pool on the roof is not specifically indicated as a use permitted above the main roof, it is requested as a modification of use regulation.

Issues: Staff has identified the following issues for continued review and evaluation:

Land Use and Zoning

- The Applicant proposes a 22 story residential building. The maximum permitted height for residential buildings in “C-O-2.5” is 16 stories. In addition, with the renovation of the office building, the mall and the development of a new residential building, after pursuing bonus density for LEED Silver certification and Energy Star and applying unused, available site plan density, the Applicant requests an additional 183,150 sf gross floor area of bonus density (approximately 153 residential units and 66,475 square feet of retail).

While the general consensus of the SPRC was that the height and density as to form – placement, scale, and massing in the context of adjacent and surrounding development was appropriate, there are still concerns as expressed by representatives of the Ashton Heights Civic Association. The Ballston Virginia Square Civic Association and other members of the community indicated additional discussion would be necessary as to how bonus density and height might be achieved. This is to be discussed at the SPRC meeting scheduled for October 12, 2015 relative to the topic of community benefits.

- The achievement of bonus density and height and other modifications to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development will need to be clarified and further evaluated in the context of any cooperation or financial agreement between the County and the Developer.

Arlington County Zoning Ordinance article 15.5.7.A. states “The County Board may, in appropriate cases, modify the uses permitted and use regulations in harmony with the general purposes and intent of the district taking into consideration: 1. Provisions made for

open space and other environmental amenities; 2. Grade direction and intensity of traffic on streets in the area; 3. Relationship to existing or permitted uses and buildings abutting or across the street from the subject property; 4. Particular dimensions, grade and orientation of the site; 5. Particular construction problems and techniques; and 6. The other provisions of Article 15.5.” Further, Zoning Ordinance article 15.5.9. provides for a modification of building height not to exceed six (6) stories or 60 feet whichever is smaller, above the height permitted in the district regulations for the provision of affordable housing, residential density not to exceed 25% for the provision of low and moderate income housing, and additional height, not to exceed three stories, and/or additional density not to exceed 10% in a multiple-family structure providing that it judges that a contribution to community facilities has been provided.

At its June 14, 2015 meeting, the County Board in directing the County Manager to evaluate a public private partnership with Forest City indicated the following for consideration:

The range of land use incentives (e.g. density, height, and modifications to parking ratios), that could be used in combination to achieve the mixed-use, redevelopment vision for the Ballston Common Mall site.

On July 21, 2015, the County Manager recommended to the County Board that potential elements of a public private partnership with Forest City might include land use components such as: height and density, site design, building design, transportation network, streetscape and landscape and signs.

With the adoption of the Arlington County Retail Plan in July 2015, the following recommendation was incorporated for short-term implementation:

“Study and identify zoning and other tools to facilitate opportunities to reposition and redevelop Arlington’s aging regional shopping centers.”

Staff continues to review and evaluate the requested bonus density and height in the context of the current Zoning Ordinance provisions as well as the County Board’s direction and County Manager’s recommendations related to a public private partnership with Forest City for the redevelopment of Ballston Common and the recommendations of the Arlington County Retail Plan. Community benefits is scheduled for discussion on October 12, 2015 with the SPRC.

Site Design and Building Architecture

- The Applicant should substantially increase façade transparency and improve interaction with the streetscape for the mall renovation and office renovation. While it is understood that the Macy’s Department store is beyond the scope of the site plan amendments, the lower level facades play a prominent role in the pedestrian experience and are highly visible at the terminus of Stuart Street as approached from the Metro station. Leaving the blank walls while renovating the other portions of the mall is a lost opportunity. If major improvements cannot be made at this time, ideas for discussion include introducing storefront display windows, landscaping, canopy, and/or other façade improvements.

~~This topic was discussed at the SPRC meeting related to site design and building architecture on July 30, 2015. The applicant's response to comments of the SPRC and staff continues to be discussed as it relates to improvements to Macy's. The applicant continues to work with Macy's who has indicated that the façade will be repaired painted and new awnings provided. The applicant continues to study façade improvements that might be made to Glebe Road retail frontages within the confines and constraints of agreements with adjacent property owners. It is most likely, and the applicant is considering landscape and streetscape improvements to address this concern.~~

~~Proposed landscape and streetscape elements being considered were reviewed and discussed with SPRC at its meeting on open space on September 16, 2015.~~

~~The applicant further refined proposed improvements including to the façade as discussed at the meeting on September 28, 2015. While there were no additional comments from the committee, the Bluemont Civic Association has noted concern that more is not being done to this frontage of the site with the proposed redevelopment.~~

- ~~• The proposed mews and removal of the mall roof is only partially proposed with the current plan. In order to increase the public, open nature of this connection through the mall, the Applicant should consider creating a complete exterior connection from the residential building's plaza, through the mews, to the mall's new plaza. The Applicant should explore options for widening the mews corridor.~~

~~The applicant continues to consider how it will make the mews more inviting and open, as well as improving connection to the space from other pedestrian connections through the site. Improvements and refinements to the proposal in response to comments will be presented as part at the September 16th SPRC meeting.~~

~~At the meeting on September 16, the applicant presented refinements to the mews with a focus on proportions, materials, etc. There were no additional comments or questions on the design.~~

- ~~• The renovations to the mall do not include commitment to LEED certification. This should be further considered and evaluated by the Applicant.~~

~~Staff has discussed with the Applicant strategies and intent for achieving LEED credits with the renovation of the mall. The applicant will continue to pursue credits in this regard although not committing to certification at this time. The commitment to certify the office building as proposed to be renovated as LEED Silver certified and Energy Star labeled and the residential building as LEED Silver certified will be consistent with the County's minimum goals and policies for sustainable design.~~

- The Applicant should explore with the County options for improving the façade along the existing parking garage structure with the subject renovations. This could include interior, exterior and/or street level improvements adjacent to the garage.

The Applicant and the County continue to evaluate and discuss the potential for improvements to the garage.

- At the SPRC Meeting on July 30, there was discussion by the SPRC that there should be a pedestrian connection provided from the east west connection in the adjacent Founders Square project, across Randolph Street to Ballston Quarter and the mews.

~~*At the SPRC meeting on September 16, the Applicant presented a Randolph Street connection to the mews through a retail/service corridor. There was a number of comments that the retail service corridor needed to be further enhanced and the entrance proposed to the corridor on Randolph Street better celebrated.*~~

At the meeting on September 28, 2015 the applicant presented further refinements to the proposed Randolph Street corridor and entrance to the mews and mall. The committee was generally receptive to the revisions and there were no further comments.

Transportation

- ~~The proposed removal of the pedestrian bridge across Wilson Boulevard needs to be further evaluated.~~

~~*At the SPRC meeting on July 20, 2015, the Applicant for the mall renovation indicated that they would evaluate and further study a proposal that provides for a pedestrian bridge. Additional information was provided at the SPRC meeting on July 30, 2015 including the applicant's proposal to incorporate a new pedestrian bridge. At this meeting, a proposed location and alignment was presented. Details regarding the design aesthetics of the bridge will be considered as part of a separate process to involve community input. There was general consensus that this was acceptable with anticipation for any future follow on process expressed.*~~

- With the proposed removal of the pedestrian bridge with the mall renovation application, the Wilson Boulevard streetscape on both sides of the street will need to be evaluated to ensure the optimal design to balance pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Also, with the potential bridge removal, additional improvements to Wilson Boulevard will need to be evaluated to accommodate pedestrian bridge users at grade. This may include consideration of the appropriate curb to curb cross section width as the travel lane widths are largely varied.

~~*It is anticipated that the street cross section and improvements for Wilson Boulevard incorporating the proposed pedestrian bridge will be presented by the Applicant at the SPRC meeting on September 16, 2015.*~~

~~*At the meeting on September 16, 2015 the applicant proposed a narrowed street section for Wilson Boulevard. Concern was raised regarding the removal of the median as part of this narrowing. Additional information will be provided to show the balance between vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Wilson Boulevard at the meeting on September 28.*~~

At the meeting on September 28, additional information was provided. The and staff applicant will follow up to provide more details to individual members regarding the dimensions of the proposed street cross sections.

- The proposed parking ratio for the residential use at .70 spaces per dwelling unit is inconsistent with the current site plan standard of 1 space per unit and County Board approvals where parking has been modified to .89 spaces per unit for new construction as its lowest ratio. A justification needs to be provided for the proposed ratio along with considerations for transportation demand management as a mitigation measure for further review and evaluation by staff.

~~The proposed parking ratio for the residential building has increased slightly with the addition of 6 spaces (previously 282 now 288) to 0.70 spaces per dwelling unit.~~

~~At its June 14, 2015 meeting, the County Board in directing the County Manager to evaluate a public private partnership with Forest City indicated modifications to parking ratios as one of several elements in the range of land use incentives that should be considered. However, a justification and proposed transportation demand management measures remain outstanding. This remains under evaluation by staff.~~

~~This remains of concern to the Ashton Heights Civic Association and the Ballston Virginia Square Civic Association. Additional information on parking ratios and utilization rates was requested for the Ballston Common Mall and nearby approved residential site plan projects for the meeting on September 28, 2015.~~

SPRC members generally felt that a parking ratio of .70 spaces per unit would be appropriate given the immediately adjacent Ballston Parking Garage which is underutilized. However, the Ashton Heights, Ballston Virginia Square and Bluemont Civic Associations felt that further study of the utilization of the Ballston Garage was needed.

- ~~With a proposed parking ratio of .69 spaces per unit, a justification also needs to be provided for further review and evaluation by staff of an increased compact parking percentage; Specifically, with less parking proposed and a greater amount than is otherwise permitted proposed to be compact in size, there is concern about the functionality of the parking and garage.~~

~~Currently the applicant proposes 13% of the parking spaces in the residential building would be compact. This is within the maximum permitted by the Zoning Ordinance and a modification is no longer being sought.~~

- ~~With the proposed residential parking entrance at the existing mall loading entry on N. Randolph Street, staff will need to further evaluate the intersection to ensure vehicular and pedestrian movements are accommodated.~~

~~*This remains under evaluation by staff.*~~

- The N. Randolph Street bus stop needs to be accommodated within the proposed design between Wilson Boulevard and the mall garage. This location has a very large ridership currently and with the proposed development, additional riders are anticipated. The existing facilities barely accommodate the current ridership and additional improvements are desired. Further, proposed utility values along Randolph Street pose additional challenges to accommodate transit infrastructure.

~~*Plans provided by the applicant show a proposed location for a bus stop on N. Randolph Street between Wilson Boulevard and the mall garage. This remains under review by staff and will be discussed and presented by the applicant at the September 16, 2015 SPRC meeting.*~~

~~*Additional considerations for the design of the bus stop are under review and including the removal of trees in that location.*~~

- Additional improvements to the Glebe Road frontage of the mall and Macy's are desired to have a cohesive streetscape on both sides of the mall. Potential for off-peak parking on Glebe as currently existing north of Macy's is also being evaluated.

~~*The applicant has committed to pursue off-peak parking on Glebe Road. (Note: Glebe Road is state owned and any proposed changes will require VDOT approval.) Façade improvements and streetscape improvements proposed by the applicant continue to be evaluated by staff and will be the subject of the September 16, 2015 SPRC meeting.*~~

~~*Concerns were raised regarding pedestrian safety on Glebe Road and the street cross sections. Additional information will be provided by the applicant at the meeting in response to comments on September 28.*~~

~~*While there are proposed improvements to the streetscape on Glebe Road making it more consistent with that of Wilson Boulevard – materials, paving, etc., there remains a desire that more would be done to improve the condition of Glebe Road with respect to pedestrian safety.*~~

- Concerns were expressed by the SPRC regarding curb side management. It was requested that additional information be provided regarding proposed spaces around the site for pick up and drop, bus parking, curb cuts, parking, etc.

~~*The applicant presented a curb side management plan at the SPRC meeting of September 28, 2015. There was a request by a member for further details be provided on street cross sections, both sides of the streets for Wilson, Randolph and Glebe. Staff and the applicant will follow up directly to provide this information as requested.*~~

Landscape and Open Space

- The design of the proposed plaza at the new entry to Ballston Quarter along Wilson Boulevard should be improved to better relate to the street. The Applicant should consider creating some street level plaza space rather than proposing all of the plaza at the lower level.

Refinements and details regarding the design of the “West Plaza” remain ongoing. It is anticipated that the applicant will provide additional information at the September 16, 2015 SPRC meeting as part of the discussion on open space.

At the meeting on September 16, SPRC members expressed concern about the lower level of the plaza and in particular the need for it to be a space among itself whose success is not primarily dependent on programming. Additional information was requested to be shown at the next meeting as to the design of the space.

At the meeting on September 28, the Applicant provided additional information in the form of renderings and views of the plaza. As presented the plaza was generally well received and including the addition of interactive elements for children. There were no further concerns expressed by the SPRC.

- ~~With the mall renovation, on-site trees will need to be provided to meet the canopy coverage requirements for the site. The proposed Mews and plaza provide additional space for improving the project’s tree canopy and appearance. With appropriate soil and support, proposed trees in these areas can be counted. The Mews could support a central planting strip, broken up by pedestrian paths, to provide tree canopy in these areas. Shade-tolerant species are available to survive in the conditions in these areas. Rooftops and other suspended tree planting can be counted, with sufficient soil volume and support to have trees reach a mature age. These trees will simultaneously improve the appearance and comfort of the mall. Since the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance takes into account the entire property, an exception to count only the disturbed area could be requested.~~

The applicant has indicated that they will comply with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance. Staff will continue to evaluate details of the proposal as they are provided.

Construction and Phasing

- ~~Streetscape improvements must be coordinated among all three site plan amendments and the entirety of the block. The applicant will provide staff a comprehensive streetscape plan, inclusive of all proposed improvements on Wilson, Randolph, and Glebe as part of the three proposed site plan amendments. The applicant will need to coordinate with staff to ensure the proposed streetscape is complimentary with other County and private development improvements surrounding the site.~~

The applicant agrees that streetscape will be coordinated. They presented a comprehensive landscape plan at the SPRC meeting on September 16, 2015 for further review and discussion. The timing of the streetscape will be discussed at the meeting on October 12, 2015.

- ~~Timing of completion of streetscape improvements should be discussed to ensure they are completed in an appropriate manner. Ideally, the streetscape improvements along the mall and Macy's frontage will be completed at the same time of the redevelopment of those areas, while the proposed residential building streetscape is completed with the completion of that building. Otherwise, interim streetscape design and timing needs to be proposed and evaluated by staff.~~

~~Construction phasing and phasing of the completion of improvements with the site plan will be the topic of discussion at the SPRC meeting scheduled for October 12, 2015.~~

- At the meeting on September 28, 2015, the applicant presented a construction phasing plan and schedule. There were concerns expressed regarding the proposal to close pedestrian access on the south side of Wilson Boulevard during construction.

The Applicant's proposed construction phasing plan remains under review and evaluation by Staff.

SPRC Neighborhood Members for this Site Plan:

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Jim Richardson | Ashton Heights Civic Association | jabrichardson@verizon.net |
| Nia Bagley | Ballston-Virginia Square Civic Association | President@ballstoncivic.org ; Bvscaorg@gmail.com |
| Craig Deering | Bluemont Civic Association | csdarch@verizon.net |
| Bernie Berne | Buckingham Civic Association | bhberne@yahoo.com |
| Tina Leone | Ballston BID | tina@ballstonbid.com |

Interested Parties:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Stephen Roberts | Alta Vista Condominiums HOA | stepsrob@gmail.com |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|

Planning Commissioner Chairing This Item:

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------|--|
| Steve Cole | Planning Commission Chair | cole.arl@gmail.com |
|------------|---------------------------|--|

Staff Members:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|--|
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