

Dulles South Business Alliance

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2007

Location: Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church

Bill Dean opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introduced the meeting topic of transportation. The purpose of the meeting today is to gain a better understanding of the new current land development and VDOT's new role in that process. Bill introduced our guest speakers: Mr. Farid Bigdeli, VDOT Assistant District Engineer for Loudoun County, Paul Kraucunas, Manager, Northern Virginia District Land Development Section, and George Barker, Chairman of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission.

Mr. Bigdeli spoke on the coordination of state and local transportation. Chapter 527 was introduced and approved by the general assembly last year and takes effect this July. Chapter 527 talks about the better coordination of local transportation between jurisdictions and locales. Mr. Bigdeli reminded us that VDOT has no say in land use decisions. VDOT looks at the impact that transportation has on our communities and communicates that back to localities. This new law will not deeply impact Northern VA but will in other parts of Virginia that do not currently conduct traffic impact studies. This regulation will be phased in because all details have not been worked out and include several informative training sessions until final implementation.

Mr. Bigdeli introduced Paul Kraucunas, Manager, Northern Virginia District Land Development Section. Mr. Kraucunas explained that the main benefit for the phasing in of the new law is to gain some experience in some jurisdictions before starting in others. Paul is asking to hear from us and welcomes our comments. VDOT developed the phased implementation approach for Chapter 527. The Districts are divided into 3 divisions (Northern VA, Richmond, Salem) for the phased implementation to occur over 18 months. Implementation is phased within each division by the volume of traffic generated by the proposed development.

Paul reviewed the Traffic Impact Analysis. (see attached copy of Paul's presentation). His office currently receives traffic studies and reviews them - this will not be a big change for VDOT. VDOT is trying to gain uniformity across the state (Richmond) so that all studies are conducted in the same manner.

On the horizon for VDOT includes multiple training sessions with the intent to develop classes open to everyone - county staff, developers, engineers, VDOT staff. The purpose of the classes is to provide a stable base and an understanding where VDOT comes from. You must register in advance in order to attend. Paul offered to provide training to the members of the DSBA if there was enough interest.

Art Smith gave a brief overview on Loudoun County's relationship with VDOT. Art will be a guest speaker at the May DSBA Meeting and will go into greater detail at that time.

Bill introduced the final speaker, George Barker, Chairman of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission. George gave his outlook on where he sees the area heading as far as transportation is concerned. The County is looking at the long term needs of transportation planning within the county – Leesburg, Lansdowne and Dulles South areas. Northern Virginia's population is currently growing at a rate of 30,000 per year therefore; the County is looking at long term issues at that current growth rate.

George introduced us to the Commonwealth Transportation Board which makes the funding decisions regarding transportation. The Commonwealth Transportation Board has a 6 year transportation plan – not necessarily the long term need we need. The CTB looks at what can be funded with current funds in the short term. George spoke briefly about the The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and their long term plans.

Supervisor Snow also spoke briefly and provided his thoughts on the new bill.

Thank you to Curry's Automotive for today's lunch. The next meeting of the DSBA will be Tuesday, May 8 at 12:00 at PVUMC.