

*City of Alexandria, Virginia*

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**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2009

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

FROM: RICHARD J. BAIER, P.E., LEED AP, DIRECTOR, T&ES 

SUBJECT: HOLMES RUN/CHAMBLISS CROSSING and STREAM BANK RESTORATION/STABILIZATION UPDATE

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On September 24, staff held the fourth and final community meeting for the Holmes Run/Chambliss Crossing project to share findings of a six-month engineering study.

Based on input from technical experts and support from the community, the City plans to proceed with permitting and preparation of construction documents for a stream crossing and bank restoration/stabilization near Dora Kelley Park at North Chambliss Street. It is a project goal to begin construction in 2010. The engineering study and future construction is jointly funded by a grant from the Virginia Dept. of Transportation and City water quality improvement funds; no new funds are required for the construction phase. The majority of the stream bank work will be funded with water quality mitigation funds that the City received as a result of impacts from development of the BRAC-133 project at Mark Center.

The Holmes Run/Chambliss Crossing project initially began as an effort to explore alternatives for a pedestrian-bicycle connection across Holmes Run between Dora Kelley Park and Glen Hills Park in Fairfax County. On March 18, staff held the first community meeting to announce the planning of a crossing at this location. The proposed crossing, which is a necessary connection within the regional network, has been listed as high-priority within the City plans for more than a decade. It connects trails in the City and County and completes a key non-motorized corridor between Columbia Pike near Lake Barcroft and Old Town. One of the strongest suggestions that came out of the first meeting was the need to include bank stabilization in the project.

A second community meeting, held May 28, provided several crossing options and announced that funds were available to explore stream stabilization/restoration efforts. This enabled staff to simultaneously conduct design and study of a combined crossing and stream stabilization/restoration, neither of which will cause a rise in the regulated floodplain. By combining the efforts, the projects served to complement each other to

protect this neighborhood and Holmes Run and will save money compared to doing each project separately.

Staff held a "Stream Tutorial and Site Visit" on May 30 which was designed to outline the multiple objectives inherent in stream restoration, outline different methods of stabilization/restoration, and explain the differences between the alternates. The final community meeting in September provided conceptual designs for a pedestrian/bicycle crossing and stream bank stabilization/restoration.

Regular community input continuously informed the project managers and led to a final conceptual design that was mutually supported by staff and residents. The design is available on the project website >>

<http://alexandriava.gov/localmotion/info/default.aspx?id=20184>

The Holmes Run/Chambliss Crossing and Stream Bank Restoration project is now in the permitting and preliminary engineering phase. A community meeting to provide input on the final construction plans will take place in 2010 and will provide residents with an additional opportunity for input.

If you have any questions about the crossing, please feel free to contact project manager Yon Lambert at (703) 746-4081 or [yon.lambert@alexandriava.gov](mailto:yon.lambert@alexandriava.gov). For specific questions related to the stream bank restoration, contact Claudia Hamblin-Katnik at (703) 746-4068 or [claudia.hamblin-katnik@alexandriava.gov](mailto:claudia.hamblin-katnik@alexandriava.gov).

**Attachments:**

Map 1 – Map Showing Project Location

Map 2 – Conceptual Drawing of Proposed Restoration and Crossing

cc: Mark Jinks, Assistant City Manager  
Rose Boyd, Director, Citizen Assistance  
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities  
Farroll Hamer, Director, Planning & Zoning  
Bill Skrabak, Director, Office of Environmental Quality  
Bob Garbacz, Acting Deputy Director, Operations/T&ES