

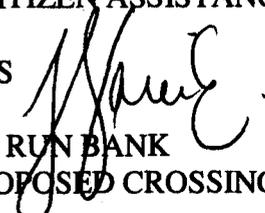
City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

TO: MAYOR WILLIAM D. EUILLE

THROUGH: ROSE WILLIAMS BOYD, ^{RE}DIRECTOR OF CITIZEN ASSISTANCE

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

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD PETITION ON HOLMES RUN BANK
RESTORATION/STABILIZATION AND PROPOSED CROSSING
(COUNCIL REQUEST #09-56E)

This is in response to your request to have staff review and respond to the letter from James W. Madden. Attached to the letter was a petition signed by residents of Alexandria and Fairfax County outlining the neighborhood's goals for the crossing and stabilization/restoration projects planned for Holmes Run.

The City shares the concern for neighborhood protection and environmental sustainability, and it appears that the goals of the community are very similar to the goals outlined for this project. 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. One of the strongest suggestions that came out of the first meeting was the need to include bank stabilization in the project. The second community meeting, held May 28, provided several crossing options and announced that funds were available to explore stream stabilization/restoration efforts. Thus, the design and study of a combined crossing and stream stabilization/restoration, neither of which will cause a rise in the regulated floodplain, will occur simultaneously. The City hopes to complete these complimenting projects to protect this neighborhood and Holmes Run.

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. A fourth community meeting is planned for early fall and will provide schematic designs for both crossing types, as well as stream stabilization and restoration alternatives for comment.

Protection of property, both City and private, given a 100-year flood is not up for a debate. This protection will be maintained. The stream bank will be stabilized to prevent

bank recession into the meadow, and such work will also reduce the sediment load contribution to Holmes Run. While the maintenance of the meadow is definitely a goal, the elevations within the meadow will likely be altered somewhat to accommodate the bank slopes as necessary to support the primary goal of stabilizing the stream channel and maintaining the 100-year flood protection. However, the meadow will be maintained to the maximum extent possible while meeting the primary goal of stream stabilization.

We look forward to the continued citizen participation in this project process and if we can answer any additional questions or address any concerns, please contact me at 703-746-4025 or Claudia Hamblin-Katnik, Office of Environmental Quality, at 703-746-4068.

cc: The Honorable Members of City Council
James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Claudia Hamblin-Katnik, OEQ