



City of Alexandria, Virginia
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William D. Guille
Mayor

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January 15, 2010

Ronaldo T. Nicholson
Regional Transportation Program Director
Virginia Department of Transportation
14685 Avion Parkway
Chantilly, Virginia 20151

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

The following summarizes the recommendations of the City Council.

As you are aware because you were present, the City of Alexandria conducted a public hearing on December 12, 2009, to address alternative improvement options being considered by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) for the BRAC-133 Project at Mark Center. City Council received significant public testimony on the alternatives being considered by VDOT and adopted the enclosed motion.

The overarching purpose of these Council-adopted recommendations is to help maintain and preserve the quality of life of the residents and businesses in the City of Alexandria. The Council-adopted recommendations listed below are intended to give guidance to VDOT to develop recommendations intended to create a sense of place for the area around the BRAC-133 development and for the adjacent neighborhoods, as well as to address the transportation needs of the larger Alexandria area, rather than limiting just to the needs of the BRAC-133 site.

1. Request VDOT to retain in the IJR study Alternatives A1 and A2 which provide direct access from I-395 to the Department of Defense (DoD) garage.
2. Request VDOT to work with City staff to evaluate additional alternatives to relieve traffic pressures on Seminary Road and to address traffic impacts from BRAC, provided that such alternatives meet the following criteria:
 - a. Do not harm the integrity of the Winkler Botanical Preserve.
 - b. Minimize disruption to local residents from BRAC-133 traffic, as well as from any potential solutions to such traffic.
 - c. Take into consideration a broader view of transportation issues in the corridor.

"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"

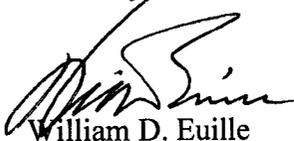
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- d. Take into consideration the guiding principles of the City's BRAC-133 Advisory Group when developing alternatives.
3. Request VDOT to eliminate from consideration any access alternatives within their preliminary IJR report which would impact the land area of the Winkler Botanical Preserve.
4. Look at the Transportation Management Plan (TMP) when developing a final proposal and recommendation on the issues.

Transportation solutions should include multi-modal enhancements to adequately address the transportation needs of BRAC-133 and the surrounding area. The solutions to serve the transportation needs of the area should include a multitude of actions with transit and transportation demand management (TDM) solutions playing a key role. VDOT should develop the transit and TDM elements of the transportation alternative enhancements taken into consideration the recommended improvements included in the City of Alexandria Transportation Master Plan, the transportation enhancements being considered in the Beauregard Corridor Plan and the transportation demand management measures being developed for the BRAC-133 Transportation Management Plan. Thus, the Alexandria City Council expects that the final VDOT proposal and recommendation will include a combination of transit, TDM and roadway measures to fully address the needs of BRAC-133 and the surrounding area.

City of Alexandria staff members are available to work with VDOT to develop and evaluate multi-modal alternatives that address the transportation needs of BRAC-133 and the surrounding area. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning the aforementioned recommendations of the City Council. We thank you for your attendance at the December 12 hearing, and look forward to future interaction to study, plan, fund and implement transportation solutions.

Sincerely,



William D. Euille
Mayor

Enclosures: (1) City Council Action of December 12, 2010
(2) Guiding Principles of the BRAC-133 Advisory Group

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cc: The Honorable Members of City Council
Transportation Commission
BRAC-133 Advisory Group
James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Richard Baier, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services
Abraham Lerner, Deputy Director, Transportation and Environmental Services

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

4. Public Hearing and Consideration of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Proposed Route I-395 Direct Access Ramp Alternatives for the BRAC-133 Project at Mark Center. (#6, 11/21/09)

City Council received the final public testimony on the seven direct access ramp alternatives being considered by VDOT for their preliminary IJR analysis and adopted the following five recommendations from the Alexandria Transportation Commission: 1. direct staff to prepare a letter to Duke Realty encouraging Duke Realty to move with all speed to complete the local roadway improvements as approved by Council; 2. request VDOT to retain alternatives A1 and A2 which provide direct access from I-395 to the Department of Defense (DoD) garage; 3. request VDOT to work with City staff to evaluate additional alternatives to relieve traffic pressures on Seminary Road and to address traffic impacts from BRAC, provided that such alternatives meet the following criteria: A. do not harm the integrity of the Winkler Preserve; B. minimize disruption to all local residents from BRAC-133 traffic as well as from any potential solutions to such traffic; C. take into consideration a broader view of transportation issues in the corridor; and D. take into consideration the guiding principles of the Alexandria's BRAC-133 group when developing alternatives; 4. request VDOT to eliminate from consideration any access alternatives within their preliminary interchange justification report which would impact the land area of the Winkler Botanical Preserve; and 5. look at the Transportation Management Plan (TMP) when developing a final proposal and recommendation on the issues. (City staff was directed to draft a cover letter to accompany the motion, with the understanding that before the cover letter is finalized, that it be shared with Council to make sure the points are covered.)

Council

Action: _____

**BRAC/MARK CENTER ADVISORY GROUP
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

Guiding Principles Relating to VDOT's BRAC Access Interchange Justification Report

The BRAC/Mark Center Advisory Group (the "Advisory Group") supports direct access from Route I-395 to the Mark Center campus with the following guiding principles. The improvements should:

1. Be transit-oriented and accommodate HOV lanes;
2. Be consistent with the existing and proposed Transportation Management Plans and the City's Transportation Master Plan;
3. Provide for amenities/incentives to encourage alternate transit use;
4. Reduce the traffic impacts to the I-395 and Seminary Road Interchange;
5. Serve the entire Mark Center campus;
6. Protect the Winkler Botanical Preserve;
7. Be designed/built for the long term usage, being the most transit efficient alternative, **not** necessarily the least expensive or most expedient;
8. These improvements need to consider/accommodate the potential future redevelopment of the surrounding areas (e.g., Mark Center and Beauregard Corridor); and
9. Be funded by the Federal Government through the design and construction phases.

Furthermore, the Advisory Group recommends that:

10. The City should urgently work to develop and implement solutions to the current and projected traffic problems on Seminary Road from George Mason to Beauregard (as documented in the VHB report) and at least to Kenmore Avenue on the East and also consider the Route 7/King Street corridor from Skyline to I-395 rather than just Seminary Road. The City should likewise review traffic and pending solutions along Beauregard Street to the intersection with Little River Turnpike. This should involve working closely with VDOT, Fairfax County, and Arlington County.