

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
FEBURARY 25, 2011**

DOCKET ITEM: 3

ISSUE: Consideration of a request to place High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) restrictions on southbound Henry Street between First Street and Gibbon Street from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

APPLICANT: City of Alexandria

LOCATION: Henry Street from First Street to Duke Street

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the request.

DISCUSSION: During the early phases of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge construction project, construction activities interfered with southbound traffic on Henry Street. Traffic congestion was so bad during the evening peak that the Police Department recommended removing the HOV restrictions on Henry Street as a means to reduce congestion. Henry Street through much of Old Town was virtually gridlocked for several hours every evening. The Police Department was deploying many GRIP officers to keep the intersections from being blocked by traffic. The urgency of the situation required immediate action so the HOV restrictions were temporarily removed without the usual vetting through the Traffic and Parking Board. Since then the new bridge has opened and traffic movement on Henry Street has improved tremendously. The Police are no longer deploying GRIP officers and the intersections are staying open. The justification for removing the HOV restrictions no longer exists. As such, staff would like to reinstall the past HOV restrictions and requests that the Traffic and Parking Board hear this issue.

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

DOCKET ITEM: 4

ISSUE: Consideration of a request to approve parking changes resulting from implementation of Safe Routes to School safety improvements at Charles Barrett School on Valley Drive and Martha Custis Drive.

APPLICANT: City Of Alexandria

LOCATION: Valley Drive and Martha Custis Drive between Tennessee Avenue and Link Road.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the parking changes resulting from implementation of Safe Routes to School safety improvements at Charles Barrett Elementary School on Valley Drive and Martha Custis Drive.

DISCUSSION: In response to numerous citizen requests to improve pedestrian safety on Martha Custis Drive and Valley Drive in front of Charles Barrett School, the City has launched a comprehensive Safe Routes to School safety project in this location. The project is funded through a federal Safe Routes to School grant.

Two public meetings were held to garner community input for the development of a preferred concept design. Feedback from members of the community indicated more support for the concept shown in Figure 1, which maintains two-way traffic on Valley Drive. This concept, which is staff's recommended concept, involves crosswalk installation, reduction of crossing distance and geometric reconfiguration, sight distance improvements, installation of sidewalk adjacent to the school, and the installation of florescent-yellow-green pedestrian crossing advance warning signs. It should be noted that the proposed geometric reconfiguration at Valley Drive in front of the school would result in a minimal shift in location of the existing all-way stop signs at this intersection.

As a result of the school safety improvements, five parking spaces located in the proximity of the Valley Drive/Martha Custis Drive intersection will be lost. However, City staff will be coordinating closely with the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) and the Parkfairfax and Parc East communities to refine the parking restrictions in front of the school along the north side of Martha Custis Drive and Valley Drive, between Tennessee Avenue and Holmes Lane. The plan for improving the parking restrictions at this location may result in the addition of parking spaces outside of school hours where "NO PARKING" restrictions are currently in place. After further coordination with ACPS, Parkfairfax, and Parc East communities, staff will bring the plan to the Traffic and Parking Board for approval in the spring of 2011.

