

## **Del Ray Follow Up Transportation Meeting**

**Mt. Vernon Community Center**

**Attendees: Approx. 20 citizens, 7 city staff from T&ES, P&Z, Police**

**Meeting Start: 6:40 PM**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:25 PM**

Rich Baier gave a presentation that recapped what the City heard from citizens at the last meeting, what has happened since the last meeting, possible future steps to address the concerns that were heard at the last meeting, and then led a Q&A/discussion session where citizens shared their thoughts and ideas.

### **Key points from the meeting:**

Staff took the issues and concerns raised at the last meeting (approximately 38 issues were written down by citizens) and grouped these into 5 key issues:

- Enforcement
- Mt. Vernon Avenue issues
- Bicycle/Pedestrian connectivity
- Traffic, and
- Public notice and involvement

Since the last meeting, approximately \$30,000 in funding has been reallocated to address neighborhood concerns as part of the December 2012 approval by City Council of the IDA office building in Potomac Yard.

Faroll Hamer gave an update on possible additional sources of money:

- In South Potomac Yard, there are potential opportunities for funding within Landbay G and Landbay H. However, most of the remaining land is slated for office use, and it was noted that the demand for office space in Alexandria and many of the neighboring jurisdictions is presently in a slump. Until these office projects come in for approvals, there is no way to ask for money.
- There is still up to \$1 million dollars that will become available when North Potomac Yard comes in for redevelopment (North Potomac Yard is the Target and the shopping center to the north of Target), but this funding is also dependent on the applicant coming in for development approvals, which may be several years in the future.

Rich Baier then discussed some tools and implementation ideas that could be used to address the key issues raised by the community (Tools and Toolbox slides from the Powerpoint presentation).

The Q&A/discussion period discussed many of the issues raised at the last meeting. Suggestions were made to:

- Increase parking enforcement on Mt. Vernon Avenue, particularly at loading zones and at intersection corners where parking is prohibited to enhance sight distance;
- Add bike lanes to Potomac Avenue and/or Main Line Blvd;
- Add crosswalks at key internal Del Ray intersections (Howell & Leslie was suggested due to the park access from Leslie);

- Add Brick Texture near the intersection of Route 1 & both Howell and Custis to help reinforce the neighborhood feel of Custis and Howell;
- Residents are continuing to see truck traffic on Custis and Howell, more signage to the designated truck routes was suggested;
- Speed tables in the 500 Block of Howell and Custis were suggested. Rich Baier indicated volumes were not high enough presently, but would be considered if volumes reached appropriate thresholds (approx. 3000 vehicles per day);
- The possibility of making the Potomac Yard side of the Howell and Custis intersections at Route 1 right-in, right-out only was discussed. Rich Baier indicated that this would be one of the final solutions to address traffic and would only be used if traffic volumes exceeded the 3000 VPD threshold and other less restrictive solutions were not effective;
- Eliminate one parking space on Mt. Vernon Ave on the downstream side of the intersection on each side of the street at each intersection;
- Rich Baier indicated that the City would set up a meeting to bring all of the stakeholders together, including the business community, to discuss options.
- Add bike corrals to areas where spaces were removed on Mt. Vernon Ave (if spaces are indeed removed).

After the discussion period, it was agreed to take the following steps to address the issues and allocate the \$30,000:

1. Add a gateway treatment/pavement treatment at the intersections of Route 1 and Howell and Route 1 and Custis. Staff to look at appropriate placement and appropriate treatment options that would be within the available \$30,000 budget.
2. Add crosswalks at key internal intersections. Howell & Leslie and Custis & Leslie identified as high priority locations by citizens. Staff to research other potential high priority locations and develop a list of these locations.
3. Work with the Del Ray business community and other stakeholders to address sight distance issues at the Mt. Vernon Avenue intersections. While removing parking was discussed, no decision has been made on the most appropriate way to address the sight distance issues.

Rich Baier closed the meeting by stating:

- There will be a meeting in mid-March, where the City will come back to the community with proposals to address the above steps #1-3 while staying within the available \$30,000 budget.
- Residents will provide additional input at the mid-March meeting and if there are choices to be made due to funding constraints, residents will be asked to weigh the options and choose the options that best address their concerns while staying within the budget.

The meeting date has not yet been determined, but will be publicized at least a month in advance. Implementation of the selected options would be completed by Fall 2013.