

Central Alexandria Traffic Study

Meeting #5 Summary

Meeting Details:

January 24, 2018

Resource Center, Bishop Ireton High School

City Staff in Attendance:

- David Soares, P.E., Transportation Engineer, T&ES
- Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, Transportation, T&ES
- Lt. Michael May, Traffic Safety Section, APD

Task Force Members in Attendance:

- Jim Taylor Clover College Park (Alternate)
- Jeanne O'Leary Seminary Hill
- Jim Durham Seminary Hill
- Carolyn Griglione Seminary Hill (Alternate)
- Tom Fulton Seminary Hill (Alternate)
- Marianne Coates Seminary Ridge
- Michael Brookbank Seminary Ridge (Alternate)
- Dana Linnet Taylor Run
- Michelle Reday Cook Taylor Run

Presentation:

City staff presented on the comments and feedback received from the community, the three themes/objectives Staff have identified from this, and gave examples of the difficulty balancing objectives and tradeoffs when mitigating traffic issues. A link to view the full presentation can be found on the Study website. City staff answered questions about the presentation, and then gave an update on next steps and how study area residents could submit any additional feedback prior to the next meeting.

Key Takeaways from Presentation and Group Discussion:

- Agreement on data: There was general agreement that the data collected and presented in previous meetings is a sufficient baseline for this project. There were questions raised about specific data in certain locations. Staff agreed that if any of the recommendations were based on data that the TF did not agree to be correct, we would re-evaluate those particular data points at that time.
- Staff presented what they have identified as three main themes/objectives of the Study based on the comments received throughout the process; Safety, reducing congestion, and reducing cut-through traffic. Staff demonstrated through several examples of commonly requested mitigation treatments the difficulty of balancing tradeoffs and unintended consequences when weighing options, and that in many instances the strategies used to reduce congestion would lead to increased cut-through traffic, and vice-versa, strategies to reduce cut-through traffic can often increase congestion.
- Staff asked the Task Force to assemble into their neighborhood groups and rank their neighborhood's priorities from the three objectives. Each neighborhood ranked reducing cut-through traffic as their top priority.
- Of note, the issue of "Leonia, NJ" was discussed. Staff provided information from the City Attorney's Office stating that the City does not have the authority to do what was done in Leonia. Staff shared information about SB 623, and there was agreement that a policy-based approach like this would need to be initiated at the State level and could not be implemented by the City at this time.

Next Steps:

- Staff explained that over the next few weeks, they would pull together a team to go through all of the comments received and use the neighborhoods' priorities to make recommendations for short, mid, and long term mitigation strategies,
- Recommendations will be presented to the TF at the next meeting, which will be held at Bishop Ireton on February 22.
- The TF did not think it was feasible to only have one more meeting, so staff agreed that it would be determined at the next meeting if one more final meeting needed to be held before the TF recommendations were provided to Council.