

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETING 5-23-2019

The transportation committee dealt with a number of important issues during the past year, particularly relating to intersection improvements, local traffic congestion, and Beltway expansion. The Committee maintained regular communications and met with officials from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and other transportation related officials throughout the year to monitor transportation initiatives and express concerns.

The following is a summary of key actions:

- Intersection of Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion Drive – The Committee examined alternatives proposed by Fairfax County DOT to improve this highly problematic intersection, and prepared a resolution expressing preference for what the Committee determined was the preferable alternative that the MCA Board passed
- Intersection of Route 7 and Towlston Road – As a large residential development is planned near this intersection, the Committee Chair sent a letter to VDOT and FCDOT expressing the committee's concerns as to whether previously planned improvements at this intersection, as part of the Route 7 widening project, would be adequate to handle the expected traffic increase from this development.
- Lewinsville Road and Spring Hill Road – The Committee sent comments to FCDOT supporting one of the proposed alternatives to improve traffic flow at this intersection that would be least intrusive to residents in surrounding neighborhoods.
- Other intersection improvements -- The Committee is monitoring other planned intersection improvements in the MCA Area identified in the FCDOT's Tysons Neighborhood Study met with FCDOT's Division Chief of Site Analysis and Transportation Planning who provided a briefing on these projects.
- Georgetown Pike Ramp to the Northbound Beltway – The Committee has received many complaints from residents near the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Balls Hill Road about cut-through traffic from commuters attempting to avoid 495 congestion near the American Legion Bridge. The Committee spent considerable time assessing VDOT's proposal to close the Georgetown Pike ramp to 495 North to mitigate this cut-through traffic, and prepared a resolution to the MCA Board in support of this proposal. However, reflecting the controversial nature of this proposal, the Board did not pass the resolution.
- American Legion Bridge and Extension of 495 Hotlanes – The Committee has long been on record in support of expanding capacity of the American Legion Bridge to mitigate what is one of the worst traffic chokepoints in the area. We are encouraged that Maryland, whose boundary line covers 80% of the Bridge has now indicated that it will expand the Bridge as part of its plan to widen 495 up to 270. We met with VCOT and Transurban about their plans to expand the 495 hotlanes up to the Bridge, and will continue to monitor this project.
- Sidewalks -- The Committee also monitors sidewalks in the McLean Area, and prepared a letter that the MCA President signed to the County Department of Public Works, expressing opposition to a developer's request to install an asphalt walkway rather than a sidewalk and for a waiver from drainage improvements along Chain Bridge Road.

- Airplane Noise – A member of the Committee participates on the FAA National Airport Noise Working Group, and regularly briefs the Committee which is concerned about the impact of airplane noise on McLean Area residents. Unfortunately, not much happened this year.
- Route 7 Widening – A member of the Committee also participates in the VDOT Working Group for this project, which will widen approximately 6.9 miles on Route 7 between Jarrett Valley Drive and Reston Avenue.