

US Route 15 Congestion Report – Section 7 Stakeholder Input Summary May 18, 2017

7. Stakeholder Input Summary

The project engaged with several stakeholders as part of the development of improvement concepts. The following sections summarize the stakeholders contacted and feedback provided. After the completion of this study, the County Board of Supervisors will be reviewing the results at a Board meeting where all public input will be welcome.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND CATOCTIN COALITION

A meeting was held on November 18, 2016 with Supervisor Higgins and Supervisor Umstatted to provide a project overview. The Supervisors suggested meeting with the Journey Through Hallowed Ground (which was performed on December 13, 2016) and with the Catoctin Coalition. The Catoctin Coalition is a group of residents along US Route 15, north of Leesburg, who are interested in US Route 15 improvements. Supervisor Higgins scheduled a meeting on January 30, 2017 with members from the Catoctin Coalition to provide input. Below is a summary of the input:

- Desire to preserve the rural nature of the corridor
- Want to review the corridor from Leesburg to Maryland, need a regional solution to address the traffic demand
- Need to improve safety current issues with tailgating and illegal passing
- Desire to have more police presence to penalize the poor driving behavior
- Widening to four lanes (two northbound and two southbound) is not desired and will invite more traffic demand
- Need to balance capacity with safety and property access
- Catoctin Coalition hired Ian Lockwood to develop a concept (this was focused near the Village of Lucketts)
- Preserve the beautiful gateway into Virginia from Maryland
- Desire for the County to establish a citizen task force to provide community input
- Explore the potential to add tolls near the Potomac River to manage traffic demand
- Encourage the use of roundabouts. Possible locations identified were:
 - King Street
 - Tutt Lane
 - Whites Ferry Road/Raspberry Drive
 - Montresor Road/realigned Limestone School Road
 - Spinks Ferry Road/Realigned New Valley Church Road

JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND (JTHG)

Given the US Route 15 corridor designation as a national scenic byway, a meeting was held on December 13, 2016 with Bill Sellers, the President and CEO of the JTHG Partnership. The JTHG encouraged Loudoun County to utilize the design guidelines contained in their adopted Corridor Management Plan (available online at <https://www.hallowedground.org/Partner-Resources/National-Scenic-Byway/Corridor-Management-Plan>). Some of the key elements are:

- Maintain the rural character of the roadway
- Incorporate the Living Legacy Tree Planting Project
- Follow the rural design elements in the Corridor Management Plan
- Review screening and buffering conditions

JTHG acknowledged that the residential developments along the corridor have changed the roadway design with the addition of large mounds placed by the Big Springs homeowner's association, shown in the photo below, and it no longer resumes the historic character intended for this scenic byway. Therefore, JTHG views this project as an opportunity to make improvements.

Roadside Mound

Exhibit 8: Roadside Mounds Facing Southbound along US Route 15 [Omitted]

TOWN OF LEESBURG

A meeting was held on November 22, 2016 to discuss the project with Town of Leesburg staff. The Town staff expressed concerns about the lack of vehicular mobility caused by the recurring congestion along US Route 15, King Street, and at the Battlefield Parkway intersection. One of the key goals for the Town is to eliminate congestion within the Town limits and provide better accessibility to Town businesses and residents.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

A meeting was held on November 30, 2016 to discuss the project with the VDOT staff. VDOT staff reinforced the desire to evaluate all the concepts outlined with Loudoun County staff (see Section 10) to improve traffic operations at the US Route 15 and Whites Ferry Road/Raspberry Drive intersection.

BIKE LOUDOUN

Bike Loudoun provided suggestions for the project to enhance the regional pedestrian and bicycle network. Bike Loudoun would like any US Route 15 improvements to include a trail connection between Balls Bluff Battlefield Regional Park with Whites Ferry. The concept is shown below in **Figure 12**.

Figure 12: Balls Bluff Battlefield Regional Park to Whites Ferry Bicycle Connection Concept [Omitted]