

**TO:** **Burke Conservancy** (Ms. Sharon Goodrich)  
**Lorton Federation** (Mr. Neil McBride)  
**Occoquan Watershed Coalition** (Gen. Albert Akers)  
**Springfield District Council** (Mr. John Pratt)  
**Town of Clifton** (Mayor James Chesley)  
**West Springfield Civic Association** (Mr. John Pratt)  
**Mr. Jerry Little, Transportation Advisory Commission** (Springfield)

**FROM:** **Susan Borinsky** TEL: 703-535-1560 FAX: 703-535-1561  
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**DATE:** **January 29, 2000**

**SUBJECT:** **Status Report: Capital Beltway Corridor Rail Feasibility Study**

**CC:** **Mr. Corey Hill**  
**Mr. Leo Bevon**  
**Del. David B. Albo**  
**Sup. Elaine McConnell / Ron Miner**

This is a summary of recent activities concerning the Capital Beltway Corridor Rail Feasibility Study. This study will examine the feasibility of constructing rail from the existing mass transit rail facilities at Springfield connecting to the mass transit rail facilities at or near Tysons Corner and Vienna. The study will also examine the continuation of rail from Tysons Corner to a connection with rail in Maryland. An innovative element of the study is that it will consider the use of power line easements for the alignment.

Please let your respective constituencies and other interested parties know about this study, so that they may follow it and have input to the decision-making process. I will provide future updates.

#### **Background on the Beltway Corridor Rail Feasibility Study**

- **MIS Recommendation for Rail Feasibility Study.** In 1997, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) completed a Major Investment Study (MIS) on the Capital Beltway Corridor (I-495) in Virginia. The MIS recommended highway expansion and express bus service on the Beltway. The MIS also suggested further rail transit planning for connectivity among radial lines, to identify the most cost-effective corridors that achieve transit benefits to the region.
- **General Assembly Action.** The Honorable David B. Albo, member of the Virginia House of Delegates, requested the Governor to insert language into the 1999 Acts of Assembly directing the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) to:

- Study the feasibility of constructing rail from the existing mass transit center at Springfield to the mass transit facilities at or near Tysons Corner and Vienna, and beyond to the State of Maryland.
- Cooperate with Maryland in this effort;
- Explore the feasibility of construction and the advantages of building on existing public rights-of-way (including, but not limited to, power line easements).
- **RFP.** On November 5, 1999 VDRPT issued a Request for Proposals, soliciting proposals from transportation consultants to assist VDRPT in conducting the feasibility study. The contractor is expected, with public involvement, to perform an alternatives analysis based on mobility benefits and environmental and financial considerations. VDRPT expects to select a contractor by early to mid-February; they are currently in the process of negotiations.
- **Advisory Committees.** A Policy Advisory Committee, consisting of residents and elected officials from the areas that would be impacted by the proposed project, and a Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of transportation professionals, will participate in the study.
- **Time-Frame.** VDRPT expects the Feasibility Study to be completed in December 2000.

### **Policy Advisory Committee**

- **First Meeting.** On November 29, 1999, Delegate Albo chaired the first meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee. The group discussed the role of the Committee, history of the proposed project and status of the RFP. The meeting occurred at the Springfield District Government Center.
- **Membership.** The Policy Advisory Committee consists of residents and elected officials acquainted with organizations and communities in the areas that would be impacted if the project were implemented. Delegate Albo asked the Committee members to keep these organizations and individuals informed about the Feasibility Study. The Policy Advisory Committee members are:
  - The Honorable David B. Albo (Chairman)
  - Mr. Steve Blake
  - Ms. Susan Borinsky
  - Ms. Nancy Bright
  - The Honorable Kate Hanley
  - Mr. Timothy Hugo
  - The Honorable Dana Kauffman
  - Mr. Paul Liberty
  - The Honorable Elaine McConnell
  - The Honorable Roger McClure
  - The Honorable Stuart Mendelsohn
  - Mr. George Smith
  - Mr. Sid Steele
  - The Honorable Vivian Watts

At the initial meeting, all the Committee members were present, except for Mr. Blake, Ms. Bright, Delegate McClure, Supervisor Mendelsohn and Mr. Steele.

- **VDRPT.** Leo Bevon and Corey Hill represented VDRPT at the meeting and discussed the status of the RFP. Mr. Hill also provided a history of previous studies in the Beltway Corridor.
- **In Attendance:** The following persons were also present (affiliations provided when known):
  - Mr. Young Ho Chang (Fairfax County Department of Transportation)
  - Mr. Richard Stevens (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority)
  - Mr. Chris Jenks (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority)
  - Mr. Bob Chase (Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance),
  - Mr. Ed L. Tennyson,
  - Mr. Dominic Bonaiuto (Fairfax Times),
  - Mr. Dave Pendleton,
  - Mr. Roger Diedrich (Sierra Club)
  - Ms. Norma Vermillion
  - Mr. David Pence
  - Mr. Steve Hamilton, and
  - Mr. Stewart Schwartz.
- **Next Meeting.** The Committee's next meeting is tentatively set for mid-March.

For information on the Capital Beltway Corridor Rail Feasibility Study, contact Corey Hill of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation at (804) 786-4443 or [hill\\_cw@drpt.state.va.us](mailto:hill_cw@drpt.state.va.us).

If I can be of assistance, please contact me at the numbers or e-mail address listed beside my name above.