



October 14, 2021

Byrd Holloway, PE
Senior Project Manager
Virginia Department of Transportation

RE: US Route 1 / Fall Hill Ave Intersection

Mr. Holloway,

The Planning Commission of the City of Fredericksburg met on September 22, 2021 and October 13, 2021 to discuss the concept for the Fall Hill Avenue and US Route 1 intersection improvements presented at the September 21, 2021 VDOT Design Public Hearing.

The Fall Hill Avenue / US Route 1 intersection currently experiences substantial congestion and presents safety concerns that this proposed project aims to address. Improvement of the intersection is a City priority and these comments are forwarded in the spirit of expediting the design, engineering, and construction of improvements at the intersection. The Planning Commission encourages VDOT to construct the physical improvements at this intersection in the next twelve months, if not sooner.

The City's Comprehensive Plan includes reference to the improvement of the US Route 1 / Fall Hill Avenue intersection. Specifically, the plan states:

"The Fall Hill Avenue / Route 1 intersection is addressed in the STARS program in response to congestion. The plan would increase the number of turning lanes on both Fall Hill and Route 1 to improve stacking and allow for a more effectively timed intersection... All intersection improvements must also consider pedestrian equity. Safety should be integrated into the intersection with obvious and accessible pedestrian access and signal timing to allow a comfortable crossing." (City of Fredericksburg Comprehensive Plan page 11(6)-11, italics added).

The improvement concept shown at the September 21 Design Public Hearing lacks detail on proposed pedestrian infrastructure but it appears that the City's Comprehensive Plan was not consulted by the design team. Within the City, pedestrian and motorized vehicle infrastructure should have equal consideration. Please evaluate the following concepts for inclusion in the project to ensure appropriate pedestrian equity is included in the design:

- Provide high visibility crosswalks and pedestrian signals at all four legs of the intersection.
- Establish mid-crossing pedestrian refuges on the north and south sides of US Route 1. Consider extending the central medians on US Route 1 so that they may provide a mid-crossing pedestrian refuge and/or moving the southern US Route 1 pedestrian crossing so that it crosses the displayed planned central median.
- Extend the east bound right turn lane from US Route 1 onto Fall Hill Avenue as far south along US Route 1 as feasible.
- Narrow the turning radii as much as feasible to provide traffic calming.
- Remove as many curb cuts as possible along US Route 1 north of the intersection.

The expansion of the vehicular capacity of this intersection is positive. Much of the congestion at this intersection is the product of regional transportation patterns that the Interstate improvements in the region currently under construction will address. The purpose of this letter is not to specifically endorse the concepts listed above. These comments are provided to ensure that the evaluation and review of the

proposed improvements better balances pedestrian equity with vehicular use in recognition of the City's unique transportation needs and changes in future built uses in the vicinity of this intersection anticipated by the Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Durham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David B. Durham
Chairman, City of Fredericksburg Planning Commission