

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM  
City Manager

DATE: June 20, 2019

SUBJECT: *Status Report*

### *Status Report*

1. Stakeholders Meeting – Trails Master Plan Update

On the evening of Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, a Stakeholders meeting was held so the consultant, Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects, PC, could present and review the draft Trails Master Plan Update document and maps. Since the two public workshops held earlier this year, this was the first opportunity for residents and interested parties to learn about the consultant's recommendations. Approximately 13 residents attended the meeting, including City Councilman Michael Esteve.

After brief opening comments by City staff explaining the stakeholder process, and noting the scheduled public hearing date by the City Council of the Trails Master Plan Update (Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>), the meeting was turned over to the consultant, Mr. Jim Klein. Via his PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Klein reviewed: results of a City-wide survey of trail users conducted early in the development of the updated plan; feedback obtained and collated at the two workshops held in February and May; goals of the Master Plan Update; an analysis of gaps and missing links in the existing trail system; and, an evaluation of alternative potential trail networks. Mr. Klein noted that there are many opportunities to expand the existing trails system; most of those lie with the City, however, there are some trail expansion opportunities along the roads and rights-of-way under the jurisdiction of the State Highway Administration and Prince George's County.

A question and answer session followed:

- Are there still opportunities to add additional trail segments to the plan? (RESPONSE: Yes there are; however, feedback should be provided to the consultant by the end of July.)
- What was the logic used to develop the various routes? (RESPONSE: The goal has been to provide better connect residential neighborhoods to commercial areas and

public facilities, while avoiding areas of high traffic and areas with incidents of excessive crashes.)

- Why was the U.S. Route 50 pedestrian bridge not used to connect to Northview Drive? (RESPONSE: Northview Drive is a high traffic City street which would have to be addressed. For this reason and because of its cross-section, Northview Drive could be a possible candidate for a road diet. That, however, would be the subject of a separate study.)
- What is the surface of the unimproved paths? (RESPONSE: Since the unimproved paths are primarily for walking and possibly mountain biking, the surface is envisioned to be natural, such as dirt; no mulched or compacted surfaces are proposed for these paths.)
- Given the layout and configuration of the City, are there any good opportunities to connect to trails to the west? (RESPONSE: There are opportunities to connect to trails west and south of the City. The WB&A Trail, and the sidepath along MD Route 450, both run in an east-west direction, and provide connections to areas outside the City limits. The proposed Collington Branch Stream Valley path, which runs in a north-south direction, is an opportunity to provide connections south of the City. If Prince George's County improves Church Road, a sidepath could be constructed as part of that project. Also, the A-44/ICC right-of-way, which has been dedicated but will not be used for road construction, is another possible north-south trail alignment. The County will need to take the lead for that project, since much of the property lies outside of the City.)
- What are the next steps? (RESPONSE: Once the plan is adopted by the City Council, funds will be need to be placed in the City's Capital Improvements Program to address the short- and mid-term projects that are controllable by the City. The City will have to work with the State and County to address longer term projects that are with the rights-of-way and along the roads under the jurisdiction of those two agencies.)
- Where does the proposed northeastern trail loop lead? (RESPONSE: That is the new pedestrian crossing over the Patuxent River.)

The consensus of those in attendance was that the consultant has done a great job in preparing the Trails Master Plan Update, which contains a wealth of valuable information.

## 2. CB-17-2019 Freeway Airport

Today the Prince George's County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee heard CB-17-2019, a bill that will allow townhouses and small lot single family lots in the R-A (Residential Agriculture) Zone. After hearing from six speakers in favor and six speakers opposed, the Committee voted 3-2 to approve CB-17. Voting in favor were Council Members Ivy, Hawkins and Davis; voting against

were Council Members Dernoga and Glaros. The bill goes to public hearing in approximately one month.

ADL:lfr