

**Town of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Symmes Transportation Subcommittee (STS)
Thursday, February 17, 2005**

Town Hall Annex First floor Conference Room, 5:15 PM

STS members present: Ed Starr (Chair), Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jeff Maxtutis, Kevin O'Brien & Scott Smith

Others present: Patrick McMahon & Jake Upton (Symmes Redevelopment Associates), Jim Danila (Howard/Stein-Hudson), Gary Hebert (Fay, Spofford and Thorndike), Sandi Bourgeois, Terry Dash, Elaine Duffy & Beth Ann Friedman (Symmes Neighbors)

Administration

The minutes of January 27, 2005 were approved. The next STS meeting was set for Thursday, February 24, 2005.

Report on Emergency Vehicle Meeting

Ed Starr distributed a report on the meeting that he and Elisabeth Carr-Jones had with Arlington Police Lieutenant James McHugh and Arlington Fire Department Deputy Chief Wayne Springer. The report outlined requirements for: two non-gated entrances to the Symmes site with a minimum width of 18' and no devices that would delay access, Hospital Road to be a Public Way, the APD & AFD to review and have final approval of roadway plans before issuance of the Special Permit, and any gates closing access to the site during construction be held with a chain that can be easily cut. The report also indicated a preference by the APD & AFD for all roadways on the site to be Public Ways, but at a minimum there be designated fire lanes on the site.

Results from Task 5 (Pedestrian & Bicycle) Meeting

Elisabeth Carr-Jones distributed a report on the priorities of the bicycle and pedestrian working group that she and Jeff Maxtutis had assembled. The other members of the group were: Sandi Bourgeois (pedestrian, Woodside Lane resident), Deborah Dill (cyclist, Millett Street resident), Jack Johnson (Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair) and Stephan Miller (cyclist, Woodside Lane resident).

The group met, reviewed the mitigation matrix and pedestrian conditions map, then brainstormed about pedestrian and cyclist ideas for the area. Ideas were discussed for Summer Street, Hospital Road, the Minuteman Bikeway, Woodside Lane, Oak Hill Drive and Hemlock Street / Stratton School. Once assembled, the ideas were ranked in priority order (with the area resident priorities being given more weight). In all, there were 27 ideas represented, 15 of which received strong support from the group.

SNAC Activities Update

Terry Dash reported that the SNAC was not prepared to speak on their activities at this time.

Peer Reviewer Update

Gary Hebert distributed a status report of his recent supplemental peer review activities. The report contained three Tasks and sample SYNCHRO queue calculations.

Task 1 was to review the Howard/Stein-Hudson traffic analysis of Summer Street queues and evaluate the signalization of Grove Street and Oak Hill Drive. Gary concluded that the decision on the right turn pocket should be made based on community values due to the trade-off between green space lost vs. reduced traffic queues not being clear cut, and that a signal at Grove and Oak Hill was not recommended as a high priority due to unintended consequences. He added that if signalization occurs, it should be only at Grove Street and should include left

turn lanes to avoid blocking through traffic on Summer Street. The Subcommittee discussed alternatives for pedestrian safety with Gary, including a pedestrian signal, a slightly raised crosswalk and changing the crosswalk's location.

Task 2 was to evaluate the local street designation capacity of Woodside Lane and its projected volumes with and without the one-way inbound access proposal. Gary concluded that the Woodside Lane access should be limited to emergency, pedestrian and bicycle access without a locked gate, or that a reasonable option for testing would be restricting inbound access to less than 40 vehicles per hour during peak hours along with monitoring equipment and regular reporting to the Woodside Lane neighbors. The Subcommittee discussed the various methods of determining roadway capacity with Gary.

Task 3 was to explore pedestrian connections to the Stratton School and a 3-way stop at Oak Hill Drive and Woodside Lane. Gary concluded that sidewalks should be added/improved on Summer Street and Hospital Road w/a sidewalk/bikepath to Woodside, and crosswalks should be added/improved on Summer Street, and that Woodside Lane and Brattle Street north of Millett should be considered for sidewalks. Gary also concluded that a 3-way stop on Oak Hill at Woodside will not meet warrants but that other traffic calming should be considered.

Preliminary Thoughts on Task 4 (Roadway Mitigations)

Jeff Maxtutis suggested three preliminary areas of concentration for additional roadway mitigation: 1) for Oak Hill Drive at Summer Street he suggested a redesign of the intersection to slow turning traffic and increase pedestrian safety, 2) for Oak Hill Drive at or near Woodside Lane he suggested some sort of traffic calming to reduce traffic speeds, and 3) for Woodside Lane east of Hospital Road he suggested a necking down of the roadway and the addition of a sidewalk. Beth Ann Friedman brought up the issue of parked cars on Woodside with respect to reducing the roadway width. It was pointed out that this condition occurs frequently on Arlington streets.

Task 3 (Woodside Lane Access) Update

Scott Smith distributed a draft traffic volume analysis and an updated decision criteria matrix for the Woodside Lane / Hospital Road access. Preliminary results of the traffic volume analysis indicated that: 1) the one-way (in to site) access condition would produce roughly the same amount of traffic on Woodside Lane as that measured in 1982 (based on the 12-hour counts conducted prior to the North Wing construction) and 2) the worst case condition for the fully open (both directions) access would be that 40% of the residential traffic would use the Woodside access (10% of the site visitor traffic would use the Woodside access).

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda - from Ed Starr

Minutes of January 27, 2005 STS meeting - from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Meeting on Emergency Access Requirements for Symmes Development - from Ed Starr

Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group Priorities - from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Peer Reviewer Status Report - from Gary Hebert

Draft Traffic Volume Analysis & Decision Criteria for Woodside Access - from Scott Smith