

## MCA Transportation Committee Report February 2011

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The Transportation Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

**Hot Lanes:** Since 2009 the Transportation Committee has met with representatives of the HOT Lanes projects at each monthly committee meeting to facilitate a give and take on the progress of construction of the HOT Lanes on the Beltway, and to discuss problems encountered by drivers. In addition, the HOT Lanes project has provided numerous e-mail updates and alerts for lane closures, detours and other impacts on traffic, and these have been distributed by e-mail to the Transportation committee list.

**Dulles Rail:** The committee also regularly meets with representatives of the Dulles Rail project has also provided frequent e-mail alerts and updates for lane closures, detours and other construction impacts, which have also been distributed to the committee list. The impact of these two construction projects has been considerable and will continue to be for years into the future. The Transportation Committee intends to continue these briefings at its monthly meetings for the time being as they provide a valuable forum for both the project representatives and citizens to communicate on issues of mutual concern.

**Beltway congestion:** On October 13, 2010, committee members met with representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and representatives from both Virginia Congressman Wolf's office and Maryland Congressman Van Hollen's office to discuss congestion issues around and related to the American Legion Bridge. This congestion is expected to get worse when the Virginia HOT lanes project is completed. This issue and potential solutions are addressed in the "*West Side Mobility Study*" (commissioned jointly by VDOT and MSHA), which provided the central discussion points for the meeting. The primary recommendations from the report involved increasing the number of lanes on the beltway from the terminus of the HOT lanes in the area of Georgetown Pike. This would require replacing the American Legion Bridge and restriping portions of the Maryland Beltway. The transportation committee drafted a resolution calling for our public officials to start this process. The MCA board passed this resolution at the February 2, 2011 board meeting.

**Langley Forrest traffic:** The committee was contacted by a Langley Forest resident about conditions at the Georgetown Pike/Douglass Drive intersection. The resident observed that many accidents occurred at this intersection and wanted the installation of a traffic signal investigated. This suggestion was forwarded to VDOT via Supervisor Foust's office. VDOT had studied this intersection recently and did not feel a signal was warranted. This was discussed in detail at the January 11, 2011 transportation committee meeting where it was determined that "traffic calming" was probably more appropriate than a signal. Supervisor Foust's

representative is assisting on this matter. On a related manner, the committee learned that the Kings Manor Association has initiated a study to determine what type of traffic calming would be effective in their neighborhood, which is adjacent to Langley Forest.

**Route 7 widening:** At the February 8, 2011 meeting, the committee heard from Jim Phelps that VDOT has approved Supervisor Foust's funding request for the engineering study to widen route 7 from the Dulles Toll Road to Reston Ave.

Please feel free to contact us and to attend meetings of the committee, which are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave.