

McLean Citizens Association Transportation Committee Recent Activities

The Transportation Committee addresses transportation related issues in the McLean area. Recently the committee met with Metro Board member Supervisor Kathy Hudgins of Hunter Mill District to discuss the health of the Metro system and ways to improve the system and address its long term capital needs. The committee expressed its desire to see a healthy Metro system that includes the Dulles rail extension, and Sup. Hudgins agreed with this position and stated she would work with us on this goal.

Bill Byrnes and Wade Smith of the committee worked with the Dulles Rail project team to change the pedestrian/bicycle access point for the Tysons West station of the Dulles rail extension to make the access point more convenient for a larger number of pedestrians. This change has been adopted into the Dulles rail planning process. The committee has continued to meet with the project team to press for pedestrian and bicycle access at the Tysons stations.

Dan Alcorn of the committee serves as a founding director and counsel to the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, a non-profit group that has advocated the Dulles rail extension since 1998. Bill Byrnes, Wade Smith, Sally Liff and others from the committee participate in DCRA activities, which involves community outreach in support of the rail extension project. The Dulles rail project team has opened an office on Spring Hill Road in Tysons Corner and employs 150 persons working on the preliminary engineering for the extension.

Members of the transportation committee attend meetings of the HJR 276 committee created by the Virginia General Assembly and chaired by Del. Jim Scott. The committee coordinates transportation concerns related to Tysons Corner, and has direct access to state and local transportation officials, who attend the meetings of the group.

The transportation committee considers transportation related proposals and issues as they arise. For example, the committee studied the HOT lanes proposal for the Beltway, and developed a critique which was endorsed by the MCA and sent to top state transportation officials. MCA's concerns were addressed by state officials by making changes in the project as requested. The committee has met jointly with the Budget and Taxation committee with Del. Vince Callahan and Del. Scott to discuss state transportation funding. Del. Callahan stated that there are various proposals for one time funding plans in the 2005 General Assembly session. The committee also considers spot transportation related issues such as problem intersections.

The committee in January meets with Providence district Supervisor Lynda Smith to discuss the Tysons Corner Transportation study being undertaken this year by Fairfax County. This study will address transportation capacities in Tysons Corner in advance of the Board of Supervisors considering proposed plan amendments for Tysons Corner.

In conclusion, the transportation committee is very involved in monitoring transportation issues in the McLean area, and in responding to these issues through the MCA resolution process. The transportation committee is a respected group among policy makers in Northern Virginia.

Dan Alcorn
Bill Byrnes
Co-chairs