

Cardinal Glen HOA Route 7 Meeting
November 15 @ 7:00 PM-7:40 PM

In attendance:

In-person: Doug and Kelly Frietchen, Chuck and Lori Jule, Nicole Ross

Via Zoom: Bob Powers, Jim Babcock, John Gonzalez, Krista Donlon, Megan Pecorino, Cecilia Ross, Janet Waggoner, Carey and Paul Lavalley, Stephen Vago, Maliha Balala, Cathy Lynner, Jen Smith

In Spirit: Matt Bressler 😊

Concerns, initial thoughts, difficulties...

- We are trying to understand what the proposal actually is, the proposal is hard to read
- Graphics are difficult to understand from the website
- We don't have a clear understanding of what exactly is proposed to happen and when
- We don't have the space like the western part of route 7 to build the huge overpasses → they planned for it better in that area. They have feeder roads, room for merge lanes, and more space
- The proposal is to improve safety but in the same breath they want to speed up traffic – it seems counterintuitive
- It seems that neither Supervisor Saines nor anyone from the county directly reached out to the HOA Board or to the homeowners in our neighborhood. There were only a couple “blurbs” in Saines’ newsletter from over the summer about the virtual meeting that happened previously
- There is a worry about proposals saying “green Ts are cheap enough to do, let’s just do those for now,” and then they might stick us with a green T and make no other “safety” changes
- Is it even safe to turn right out of our neighborhood with near-constant traffic flow?
- How will the proposed u-turn work for the school bus, the middle and high school ? (Janet W responds that the buses would likely turn right on route 7 and then go down to sugarland run)
- More concern for how all of these changes and overpasses and ramps and new types of turns will fit in these intersections
- There is also concern for ambulances and other emergency vehicles having access to our neighborhood
- Have they studied what happens when people take a right turn and then have to cut across 3 lanes of traffic quickly to make a u-turn, how safe will that be?

What we generally seem to understand...

- Larger part of the project to be completed around 2040
→ this part has not been funded and it has not been approved
→ The light to exit Cardinal Glen would be gone, it would be right in and right out
- Augusta would still have their light, so we would often need to wait for the Augusta light to turn red so we can more safely turn right
- We would u-turn BEFORE Potomac and have a stop sign there (is this in 2040 or sooner)
- There is also a 5 year plan (interim solutions), which is what we should try to focus on first

As if things aren't complicated enough...

- There has been a proposal for a walking path along route 7
- Doug found a graphic that shows a pedestrian crossway which would allow us pedestrian access to Sterling Blvd
- We wonder if they are doing sidewalks also so that kids could walk to school and they do away with the buses. They HAVE to take a bus now because we don't have any sidewalk to get to the middle and high schools

Looking forward..

- Can someone from the county come to us and explain it to us instead of just forwarding us emails?
- Doug: Can they make Algonkian a bypass and make route 7 business as there are less lights? Has this been studied or proposed? It's like the problem is they built up too close in the Algonkian area →it shouldn't be our job to come up with alternatives, but it's a good thought nonetheless
- Try to link up with the Bahai center, the senior living center across route 7 (neighbor Megan Brown used to work there and could possibly be a point of contact), and with the Westerly HOA
- We clearly need a better understanding of what they are proposing and the timeline.
- We need to get the word out to everyone in our community so that they are aware of this. We will do this through multiple modes of communication
 - Someone to create a sign for the median
 - A letter in the mailbox
 - Go door to door
 - Direct neighbors to our Facebook page, our website, encourage them to sign up for the Rt7 Distribution List
- Hooray! We are getting more and more people involved and aware of the situation
- Reach out to supervisor Saines and county person to get on their schedule
 - The supervisor should be in communications with us as we really need someone from the county to provide us more detail because we can only understand so much from the paper
 - Lori will email Supervisor Saines to attempt to arrange a time that he can speak with us
 - Megan P and Krista will write to Zelman from the county and others
 - CC the HOA Board and the Rt7 Email group so that the county people see there are lots of eyes on them and they're not just emailing with a single person

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