



## **The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998**

**<http://www.mvcca.org>**

Senator Patricia S. Ticer  
Alexandria City Hall  
301 King Street Room 2007  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Senator Linda T. Puller  
P.O.Box 73  
Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Senator George L. Barker  
P.O.Box 10527  
Alexandria, VA 22310

Delegate Kristen J Amundson  
P.O.Box 143  
Mount Vernon, VA 22121

Delegate Mark D. Sickles  
P.O.Box 10628  
Franconia, VA 22310

Supervisor Gerald Hyland  
2511 Parkers Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22306

July 27, 2009

Dear Supervisor Hyland, Senators Ticer, Puller, Barker,  
Delegates Amundson, and Sickles,

Subject: VDOT Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations—Chapter 527—Unintended Consequences

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA). MVCCA is a non profit all volunteer citizens' organization recognized by the State of Virginia. As such we represent civic, homeowner and condo associations in the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County with regards to advocating their wishes to our County Board of Supervisors, our District Supervisor and our State elected officials.

We have a dilemma and need your assistance.

The South County Area Plan Review (APR) of the Comprehensive Plan (CP) for 2009-2010 is underway. The APR provides an opportunity for private citizens, developers and landowners to participate in the land use planning process by submitting proposals to amend the CP. This CP, as you know, then becomes the guide used by our Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to make land use decisions. In essence the CP is the citizen's document.

The MVCCA is currently developing nominations for the 2009-2010 APR of the CP. We have recently become aware of the unintended consequences created by Chapter 527 of the 2006 Acts of Assembly added 15.2-2222.1, to the Code of Virginia.

- This amendment “establishes procedures by which localities submit proposals that will affect state-controlled transportation networks for VDOT review and comment”.
- The Virginia Department of Transportation Traffic Impact Analysis Regulation (24VAC 30-155) “sets forth procedures and requirements governing VDOT's review of and comments regarding comprehensive plans” and “the accompanying traffic impact analysis”.
- The Virginia Department of Transportation Traffic Impact Analysis Regulation (24VAC 30-155-80-fees) provides the guidance regarding who pays fees and who does not pay fees for submitting comprehensive plan amendment proposals to VDOT for review and comment.
  - Para A : No fee shall be charged to a locality or other public agency
  - Para B: all other applicants are subject to a fee to be paid to VDOT
    - Para B.1. : a fee of \$1000.00 shall be charged for comprehensive plan amendments and transportation plans submitted to VDOT.
- Comprehensive Plan or Plan Amendment Package Checklist – Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations: (24 VAC 30-155-50) identifies the documentation required to be submitted to VDOT regarding CP amendment proposals. This list clearly requires the applicant to provide most if not all of the following:
  - An inventory of existing traffic networks
  - Maps
  - Cost estimates
  - Needs assessment
  - Assumptions
  - Traffic Recommendations
  - Maps or narratives
  - Planning assumptions changes
  - Local assessments of potential impacts to current transportation systems
  - The fee of \$1000.00

In Fairfax County, the APR-CP process is for the all citizens (developers, landowners, the “common man/women”) to make to their desires and vision of land use known to our elected officials and county staff.

The MVCCA membership applauds the State for its desire to integrate land use and transportation impacts during the planning process. By considering these two aspects jointly a better end result should arise.

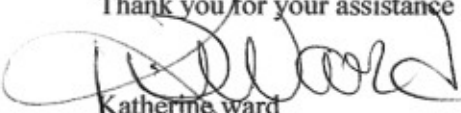
**However**, the unintended consequences of Chapter 527 and the Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations have made it impossible for private citizens and non-profit groups such as the MVCCA to fully participate in the “citizen’s forum” regarding the APR-CP. We, as well as other non-profits and private citizens neither have the skills, knowledge or abilities to perform the required transportation studies mandated by VDOT’s Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations, nor do we have the financial resources to pay the \$1000.00 fee and the costs of hiring a transportation consulting firm to conduct the mandatory studies. These consulting firms fees average approximately \$20,000.00\* per nomination. (Cost estimate obtained from various transportation consultants.)

The MVCCA is seeking relief from this fee structure and the costs of the analysis studies. We should be entitled to participate fully in the South County 2009-2010 APR as well as all future APRs. The economic development and revitalization of US Route 1-Richmond Highway depends on it.

We are seeking your support and assistance in rectifying these unintended consequences of Chapter 527 and the subsequent VDOT Traffic Impact Analysis Regulations.

The State legislature’s positive action on this matter will not only assist the citizens of the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County, but all citizens of the State who seek equal representation in these important matters.

Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.



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cc: Supervisor Jeff McKay- Lee District  
Earl Flanagan –Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner  
Frank Cohn- Mount Vernon Transportation Commissioner  
Marianne Gardner –Chief Policy and Plan Development Branch  
Kathy Ichter- FCDOT