

TRANS: 2013- 02 COMPLETION of FORT HUNT ROAD TRAIL

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has shown Fort Hunt Road from US Route 1 to Quander Road as a “Preferred Street and Roads” Multiuse trail since the County Bicycle Trail Map was published in 2008 and is currently finishing a major trail from Quander Road to the Martha Washington library; and

WHEREAS, the current Multiuse lane is unsafe for pedestrians and bicyclists and does not meet the spirit or community expectation of the 2002 Board of Supervisors (BOS) Special Exception Amendment Application (SEA 98-V-042) for improvements to the Belle Haven Country Club (BHCC) requiring a minor trail along Fort Hunt Road to link it to the future Woodrow Wilson Bridge bike trail and Old Town Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Bike Trail Map defines “Preferred Streets and Roads” as “Generally suitable for bicycling due to a combination of low traffic volumes, low traffic speeds, and/or the presence of wide travel lanes, paved shoulders or bike lanes”; and

WHEREAS, in September 2002, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations (MVCCA) passed a resolution that supported a continuous bike trail on the east side of Fort Hunt Road between Belle Haven Road and north of Hunting Cove Place; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Fort Hunt Road has a constant stream of vehicles going north and south at 35mph or greater and the “trail” on the existing shoulder is inadequate and unsafe as it is not maintained and has gravel debris that covers a major portion of the asphalt trail and the vegetation has overgrown into the trail portion requiring a trail user to go into the travel lane; and

WHEREAS, the two separated white lines with diagonal lines is less than the required two-foot separation for the vast majority of the existing shoulder “trail” and the white line closest to the travel lane has blackened over the years as cars routinely cross into the area thereby reducing the separation by 25-50%, even when the trail is in use; and

WHEREAS, the existing asphalt “trail” is not consistently four-feet wide as required for a minor trail and is between a travel lane and a metal guard-rail east of the “trail”, which would entrap any bicyclist or pedestrian if a vehicle lost control such that the “trail” is a public hazard; and

WHEREAS, there is over 11-feet of land between the guard rail and the chain link fence of the BHCC property, which is sufficient room for a major trail like the George Washington Parkway boardwalk bicycle/pedestrian trails, which the National Park Service has used for decades on the Mount Vernon Bicycle trail; and

WHEREAS, the minor trail changed from a major trail County designation by the BOS in December 2002, does not meet the definition of a preferred street and roads bike trail and is not consistent with the major trail from Quander Road to Martha Washington Library, which does meet the definition of a “Preferred Street and Roads” bike trail; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations request that the BOS complete the Fort Hunt Trail between Belle Haven Road and north of Hunting Cove Place with a major boardwalk bicycle/pedestrian trail east of the guardrail so that bicyclists can bike-to-work via the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Bike Trail, or run or stroll to Old Town Alexandria via a safe route as directed by the Fairfax County Bicycle Trail Map.