



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

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

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Planning Commissioner Clarke
Supervisor Storck

December 12, 2018

Dear Planning Commissioner Clarke and Supervisor Storck,

Ref: Mount Vernon Council of Citizen's Associations (MVCCA) 2nd Resolution Undergrounding of Utilities from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Rd (Fort Belvoir to Costco).

The MVCCA feels very strongly that the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (PA 2015-IV-MV1) should contain appropriate language to ensure undergrounding of all utilities and communications along Richmond Highway is completed concurrently with the road widening project and not contingent upon execution of individual development projects.

This position is also supported by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce (letter attached).

The attached resolution is forwarded on behalf of the MVCCA. Support by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors is desired and strongly requested.

John Ribble

John Ribble
Co-Chair
MVCCA

Enclosed:
MVCCA Resolution 2018-04
MVCCA Resolution 2018-03
Chamber letter dated Jan 24, 2018

cc: County Executive Bryan Hill
State Senator Scott Surovell

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION'S (MVCCA) RESOLUTION
(TRANSPORTATION) 2018-04 UNDERGROUNDING OF UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS ALONG
RICHMOND HIGHWAY FROM JEFF TODD WAY TO NAPPER ROAD

1. **Whereas:** The Board of Supervisor's adopted a Policy Plan Objective 41 encourages us to " Construct underground transmission and distribution lines, whenever possible, along existing or planned utility or road rights-of-way, preferably on lot lines which will least disturb future development of the site." and;
Locate future above-ground transmission lines along railroad rights-of-way, where possible, and when in keeping with adjacent development. Placement of transmission lines should not compromise the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. Visual impact should be a key element in the evaluation of proposed transmission line locations." and;
2. **Whereas:** The Board of Supervisor's recently adopted EMBARK URBAN STREET NETWORK DESIGN recommendation that "Utilities, utility boxes, and utility vaults should be placed underground, wherever practical, (with the exception of storm drainage in areas where natural channels are possible) to foster a visually appealing and pedestrian-friendly environment. Such infrastructure should be located within building structures, under sidewalks, or in the building zone. These facilities should not be located within the landscape panel where conflict with street trees is possible. If underground utility lines are located under sidewalks, above grade structures and utility cabinets should not be located in the sidewalk where they may impede pedestrian movements. To achieve this goal of undergrounding utilities, detailed site analysis should take place early in the development process to avoid conflicts between utilities and proposed street tree locations. If underground utilities are not practical at the time of redevelopment, redevelopment should provide underground utility conduits and commitments to facilitate future improvements as adjacent development builds-out and utilities are relocated.", and;
3. **Whereas:** VDOT is beginning its condemnation of roadway frontage in order to widen the highway from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road and;
4. **Whereas:** This process will take up to 4-5 years therefore there is ample time for funding to be attained for undergrounding and;
5. **Whereas:** The current businesses along Richmond Highway generated approx. \$4.5 million in tax dollars in 2017 and the property owners and residents deserve a true revitalized highway that undergrounding of utilities and communications will achieve and;
6. **Whereas:** Prince William County and James City County in VA accomplished undergrounding with a variety of funding methods (examples: NVTA revenue, CIT revenue, County General Funds, Special taxing District, Prepay proffers etc.); Fairfax County, a rich county, should be able to do the same and;

7. **Whereas:** Proffers to repay the County for funding this undergrounding can be another funding method and;
8. **Whereas:** The piecemeal proffers of developers to underground utilities at redevelopment sites as developers begin projects will not enhance Richmond Highway and will merely disrupt traffic haphazardly along the roadway as each development commences; and;
9. **Whereas:** EMBARK will never achieve the true status of the award it attained if undergrounding is not made part of the process now.

Therefore be it resolved: We the citizens of the Mount Vernon District ask Supervisor Storck to introduce a board matter in support of the undergrounding of utilities and communications and;

Therefore be it finally resolved: The citizens of the Mount Vernon District requests County Staff and all elected officials to do the economically right thing and use all sources of funding available to them to add undergrounding of utilities and communications to the widening project of Richmond Highway.

Unanimously Passed by the MVCCA General Council November 28, 2018 at their November General Council Meeting

REF: Previous resolutions: MVCCA Resolution 2017-AC-01 and MVCCA Resolution 2018-03