



Minutes

PROJECT: Richmond Highway BRT Executive Committee Meeting #10

DATE & TIME: January 27, 2021 2 - 3 PM

LOCATION: Conference Call (a recording of the meeting is posted at <https://soundcloud.com/fairfaxcounty/richmond-highway-bus-rapid-transit-executive-committee-1-27-2021>)

Attendees:

Committee:

Tom Biesiadny, FCDOT
Barbara Byron, DPD
Claudia Llana for Helen Cuervo, VDOT
Honorable Rodney Lusk, Supervisor -- Lee
Jennifer Mitchell, DRPT
Monica Backmon, NVTAA
Honorable Dan Storck, Supervisor – Mt. Vernon
Marcus Wadsworth for Chairman Jeffrey McKay, BOS

Ricky Foley, FCDOT
Robin Geiger, FCDOT
Todd Horsley, DRPT
Ron Lilley, FCDOT
Doug Miller, FCDOT
Christine Morin, BOS
Anna Nissenen, FCDOT
Diego Rodriguez Cabrera, BOS
Eric Teitelman, FCDOT

FCDOT Program Management Consultant:

Jose Bustamante, PMC
Lara Hegler, PMC
Suresh Karre, PMC
Henry Kay, PMC
Jenny Koch, PMC

Staff:

Vanessa Aguayo, FCDOT
Jim Beall, FCDOT
Clinton Edwards, DRPT
Tom Fahrney, FCDOT

Tom Biesiadny opened the meeting. Vanessa Aguayo reviewed the agenda which includes updates on schedule, NEPA, design, and public involvement.

Vanessa said the schedule remains unchanged from the last meeting. Preliminary work on right of way acquisition is underway. Utility relocation will begin in early 2023 and roadway construction will begin in 2025. Revenue service is scheduled for 2030. The County continues to look for ways to reduce the schedule. Regarding FTA funding milestones, we expect to request to enter Engineering this fall.

Vanessa said the draft Categorical Exclusion was submitted to FTA last September. The County is seeking concurrence on the Architectural Effects Assessment from the Department of Historic DHR. A civil rights complaint was closed, and no further action is needed. FTA signature is anticipated this spring.



Vanessa said that 30% design is complete, and the PMC is responding to County staff comments. The next milestone is 60% design. The current focus is intersection design, stormwater management, maintenance of traffic, and right of way. FCDOT will seek Design Endorsement from the Board of Supervisors in summer 2021.

Vanessa said all needed right of way parcels are identified and were presented to the public last fall. The acquisition plan has been submitted to FTA. Advance acquisitions are underway. Following NEPA approval, full parcel acquisitions will begin. The County is procuring a contractor to demolish vacant buildings so they do not become a hazard.

Vanessa said the two station design concepts have been presented to the public. An online survey is now underway. The next step will be to seek an Executive Committee recommendation to take to the Board of Supervisors. The preferred concept will then advance to 60% design.

Vanessa said that three branding concepts will be shared with the public at meetings tonight (1/27/21) and tomorrow night (1/28/21). There will be meetings in both English and Spanish. An online survey is underway. The next step will be to seek an Executive Committee recommendation to take to the Board of Supervisors.

Vanessa presented recent public involvement activities. Since last October there has been approximately one big meeting each month in both English and Spanish. In October we reviewed right of way needs. In November we presented the station designs. In December we participated in an end-of-year wrap-up with other County agencies. This month the topic is branding. We distributed information by postcards, flyers at food distribution events, and the project email list.

Claudia Llana provided an update on the VDOT widening project. The project is currently in the detailed design phase. A Title VI complaint was filed and dismissed in June 2020. VDOT Design Approval and a Finding of No Significant Impact occurred in October 2020. On January 7, 2021 the project sent right of way plans to VDOT's Central Office for federal review. Acquisitions are scheduled to begin this fall.

Vanessa reviewed the 2021 work program highlights which include progressing design to 60 percent; completing NEPA; completing acquisition of advance acquisition parcels; advancing third party agreements; completing an electric bus technology review; and requesting entry to FTA Engineering. At the coming Executive Committee meetings we will present results from public input on station design and branding.

Tom asked Vanessa to review the agenda for tonight's branding presentation. Vanessa said the presentation starts at 7 PM. We will review the project, particularly station design, and then the branding consultant will review the options.

Tom asked Ricky Foley to review progress on advanced right of way acquisition. Ricky said we have started the appraisal process for three properties that FTA approved as hardship acquisitions. We expect to have the appraisals to the appraisal reviewer by mid-February and final appraisals a week later. We would then be ready to make offers. Tom said this is a big first step.

Vanessa said we are working on an information flyer with information about both the branding survey and station design survey. The surveys close on February 19.

Todd Horsley and Supervisor Dan Storck said they had no further questions.



There being no further discussion, the meeting concluded at approximately 2:30 PM.

Prepared by H. Kay