

Hydraulic Community Advisory Committee Minutes

Monday, February 12, 2024 | 5:30pm-7:00pm

IN-PERSON MEETING – Greer Elementary

ATTENDEES:

CAC members present: Kate Acuff, Julian Bivins, Vitto Cetta, Jane Fogelman, Dennis King, Kate Lambert, Bill Love, Diantha McKeel, Rosemary Miller, Cynthia Neff, Kendra Walsten

CAC members absent: Jacqueline Salazar, Chris Rembold, James Clemenko, Jane Foy, Yolanda Speed, John Lewis

Community Members Present: Will Stowe, Kevin McDermott, Pete Brennan, Hal Jones, Bill Richards, Kim Swanson, Sharon Ketcham, Steven Blaine

Liaisons present: Khalilah Jones

Bill Love called the meeting to order at 5:36. The group did introductions, including new member Denny King.

Vito Cetta moved to approve the evening's agenda. Cynthia Neff seconded the motion. All approved.

Bill Love moved to approve the minutes from last month's meeting at the next meeting because the minutes were circulated last-minute.

AGENDA:

1. Hydraulic Roadway Improvement Project

Will Stowe, PE, DBIA, VDOT

Harold Jones, VDOT

- Includes: Improvements at Hydraulic/29, Construction of Pedestrian Bridge, Changes at Whole Foods Area, and updates to 250 Bypass turn lane.
- Albemarle County / VDOT is working with a number of outside consulting and building partners
- Design-Build Contract value: \$20,788,119. Final completion date will be October 31, 2025.
- There will be road closures at Hydraulic and Hillsdale.
- General Road Closures will be overnight (9pm to 6am)
- **Hydraulic Road and Rt 29 Improvements:** remove left turn lanes from Hydraulic to 29N, improve wait times by 35%, improve pedestrian access and safety with new crosswalks, upgrading ADA ramps and lighting.
- Bill Love asked how they expect people will turn left from Hydraulic Road. Mr. Stowe explained that people will disperse to lots of different pathways. GPS systems will reroute appropriately.
- Cynthia spoke up about people being skeptical about roundabouts and suggested putting user-friendly information online and on the news. Jane Fogelman suggested doing infomercials.
- Denny asked about whether the contractor
- Kim Swanson (community member) asked about whether bus stops will be impacted. Mr. Stowe assured the group that the buses will not be impacted aside from the bus stop by Whole Foods.
- Diantha addressed the group to remind everyone that this intersection was one of the most dangerous for cars and pedestrians. Diantha also noted that roundabouts are safest for

pedestrians. This project is the final project of a larger project initiated more than ten years ago with representation from Albemarle County, City of Charlottesville, VDOT, and public community.

- **Pedestrian Bridge over Route 29:** The pedestrian bridge will go across 29 near White Horse Car Wash (south) / Burton's Grill (north). The plan includes bump-outs for future bus stop and lights for pedestrians. The bridge will have pedestrian ramps going up to the top with handrails.
- **Hydraulic Road / Hillsdale Drive Roundabout:** This project will improve safety and traffic flow, provide crosswalks and ADA ramps throughout, provide street lighting, facilitate u-turn for Hydraulic and Brandywine/Michie neighborhoods. The roundabout will also have landscaping in the center and terra cotta brick stamped in lane buffer. The roundabout will maintain two lanes down Hydraulic. Because they are changing the grade of the intersection, there will be a 46-day closure planned for summer 2024. DETOUR will guide people to different 250 exits. People will maintain access to ALL businesses. During the detour, the bus stop right by Whole Foods will be suspended (people can use other nearby stops). There is a possibility this closure/detour will take place summer 2025.
- Denny asked about possible construction at the former Kmart location. Mr. Stowe explained that they are working together, not impacting each other, but the Kmart site doesn't have an approved site plan at the moment.
- Kim Swanson asked about the turn into Whole Foods. Mr. Stowe confirmed that the entrances/exits to Whole Foods will not change.
- At the Roundabout location, there will be lane closures. Any work during the day should not impact traffic.
- **Brandywine Drive / Michie Drive Improvements:** restrict left turning movements improving safety, left turns can still be accomplished by u-turns, crosswalks installed. This will all take place after roundabout work is complete.
- **Route 250 Left Turn Lane:** double turn lane storage capacity, improve turn radius, crosswalk and ADA ramps and lights.

2. Stonefield Amendment

Rebecca Ragsdale, Albemarle County Community Development

Steve Blaine, representing Stonefield Client

- There will be a rezoning of a 2,500 sf space at Stonefield. Ms. Ragsdale reviewed the process. This is the Community Meeting portion of the process.
- Ms. Ragsdale noted that the County is taking into consideration the view of cars from 29.
- Mr. Blaine explained that Stonefield is currently a planned development with certain uses. When it was initially envisioned in 2005, car dealerships were not in the plan. The applicant is proposing a change to the plans to include a Showroom for an automotive company.
- The special use permit is required because there will be a "display" of four car models outside. The cars will be located in the existing parking spaces.
- After a question from the group, Kendra confirmed that there are already public Tesla and generic electric vehicle charging stations.

3. Board of Supervisors / Planning Commission Liaison Updates

- Kendra Walston, Stonefield
 - PureBarre relocated to Stonefield. Clean Juice also moved into Stonefield. Both located near Costco.

- The group talked about the Travinia space. Still no tenant, but hopefully soon.
- Kate Acuff, School Board
 - There is a new project that is centered at Albemarle High School – a 6000 square feet addition to connect the second floor areas. Hopefully this project will be done before next school year.
 - There is a proposal expected to pass at the State level for a one percent sales tax increase in order to be a referendum in November for capital projects for schools. It could provide \$25-35 million annually.
 - This week will have a presentation from the redistricting committee to answer questions about how to handle northern elementary schools.
- Julian Bivins, Planning Commission
 - Service Dogs of Virginia is hoping to build a new space on Turkey Sag Road, which will be reviewed at the 2/13 Planning Commission meeting. They will also be looking at the Comp Plan and rural transportation. Julian reminded the group that 95% of Albemarle County is rural and Albemarle is the fourth largest county in the state!
- Diantha McKeel, Board of Supervisors
 - The County Executive will be presenting the budget recommendation this month on 2/21.
 - The Albemarle County Superintendent will be the funding request on 2/22.
 - There is discussion about forming a Charlottesville-Albemarle Transit Authority to allow the city and county to establish a governance model to figure out how to fund/run a transit system. The university system could also certainly join.
 - People are really using the MicroCAT system! A robust pilot that people want to expand.
 - i. Kim Swanson asked about who is responsible for MicroCAT if there are issues with the system/app. Diantha gave information and also explained that the border area is hard to determine and is currently limited for the pilot.

Bill Love declared the meeting adjourned at 7pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 11 at Greer Elementary School.