

## **Route 50 Corridor Task Force October 11, 2011 Meeting Summary**

The Route 50 Task Force meeting was held at the Aldie United Methodist Church at 4:00 pm, on October 11, 2011.

### **Attendees**

Task Force members in attendance were:

- Jim Rich – Co-Chair, CTB Member
- Childs Burden – Middleburg Citizen Representative

VDOT attendees:

- Jim Zeller – Loudoun Preliminary Engineering Manager

Aldie Residents:

- Residents of Aldie were in attendance.

Co-Chair Jim Rich called the meeting to order.

### **Minutes:**

The minutes from the September 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### **Financial Report:**

The October 2011 Route 50 Corridor Report on Expenditures by Project and Phases was reviewed by the Task Force members.

Use of surplus funds from Upperville: Follow up discussion on the ability to transfer surplus funds from Upperville (located in the Culpeper District) to Aldie (located in the NOVA District). Mr. Rich reported that he spoke with VDOT's Chief of Planning & Programming, and that the matter has been resolved.

### **Gilberts Corner:**

Maintenance of Street Lights: Mr. Zeller reported that the streetlights have been inspected and all are working.

Wayfinding: Meeting participants reported that some GPS devices do not accurately reflect the configuration of the roundabouts, resulting in the possibility of wrong turns. Mr. Zeller will investigate how newly constructed roadway improvements are coordinated with the manufacturers of GPS devices.

### **Aldie:**

Members of Aldie Volunteer Fire Department in attendance reported that VDOT construction staff has met with them on site to review the construction taking place along their property, and to hear their concerns.

Staff reported that a field office is being set up on the Tucker Withers property between Aldie Mill and Mercer Tavern. Plans will be kept on site and construction staff will be available to address resident's concerns.

Mr. Rich requested a press release to *Leesburg Today*, *the Loudoun Times-Mirror* and the *Fauquier Times-Democrat* announcing the start of construction. Mr. Zeller will coordinate with VDOT Public Affairs.

Aldie Water: Meeting participants reported that there are several service lines from the municipal water system that crosses the "Aldie Ditch". Installation of the storm sewer needs to be coordinated with these service lines. Points of contact for the Aldie water system include Tucker Withers, John Hottle (tel 703-327-6294) and Buzzy Carter of AVFD.

**Upperville:**

Discussion on the repair of the Imprint pavers: Mr. Zeller reported that alternatives continue to be investigated on how best to repair, replace or upgrade the Imprint material. Task Force members expressed a preference for concrete pavers.

Task Force members reported that there are still several dead trees that need to be replaced. Mr. Zeller will follow up with VDOT's Landscape Architect as needed.

**Maintenance:**

Mr. Zeller reported that discussions on the maintenance MOU are ongoing with VDOT's Northern Virginia District Administrator. There is particular concern about the maintenance of landscaping in Aldie. Unlike Upperville, there is no garden club in Aldie.

The Task Force made it clear that project funds should not be used on what it considers maintenance, including the replacement of galvanized steel guardrail with powder coated guardrail. Mr. Zeller confirmed that project funds will not be used for the upgrade of the guardrail.

**Next Meeting:**

Scheduling of the next meeting was deferred to until after the holidays. It would still be held at Aldie Methodist Church.

## **Route 50 Corridor Task Force June 14, 2011 Meeting Summary**

The Route 50 Task Force meeting was held at the Aldie Methodist Church at 4:00 pm, on June 14, 2011.

### **Attendees**

Task Force members in attendance were:

- Jim Rich – Co-Chair, CTB Member
- Anne Coyner – Upperville Citizen Representative
- Jim Burton – Member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
- Childs Burden – Middleburg Citizen Representative

VDOT attendees:

- Jim Zeller – Loudoun Preliminary Engineering Manager

Aldie Residents:

- Residents of Aldie were in attendance.

Co-Chair Jim Rich called the meeting to order.

### **Minutes:**

The minutes from the May 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### **Financial Report:**

The June 2011 Route 50 Corridor Report on Expenditures by Project and Phases was reviewed by the Task Force members.

### **Gilberts Corner:**

The high crash rate at the Gilberts Corner roundabouts were discussed. The Task Force requested that Michael Wallwork be engaged to analyze the crash data, observe the operation of the roundabouts, and make recommendations for any remedial measures, and requested Mr. Zeller to send the crash data presented at the meeting to Mr. Wallwork for review. Mr. Zeller indicated this would do so and will fund this work using surplus funds from the other projects within the traffic calming corridor (Upperville and/or West of Middleburg projects). Updated information was presented that showed most of the crashes took place at the “large” roundabout at Gilberts Corner. Aldie Volunteer Fire Department staff in attendance reported that there were two crashes at the Howsers Branch / Rte 50 roundabout that required med-evac services.

A request was made to increase the amount of watering done for the landscaping, including the use of the “green bags” seen with newly planted trees. Mr. Zeller said he will pass the request to the landscape contractors.

### **Aldie:**

Discussion on the award of the construction contract. Mr. Zeller reported that the contract award is being recommended for rejection and the project re-advertised because the apparent low bidder did not meet DBE goals. Mr. Rich stated his intention to try to overturn the recommended rejection of the contract. The Task Force supported this effort and voted to recommend award of the contract without the DBE goals.

**Upperville:**

Ms. Coyner reminded Mr. Zeller that the before-and-after comparative speed studies needed to be completed. Mr. Zeller said he will follow up on this.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be scheduled pending the outcome of the Aldie contract award.

## **Route 50 Corridor Task Force May 10, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

The Route 50 Task Force meeting was held at the Aldie Methodist Church at 4:00 pm, on May 10, 2011.

### **Attendees**

Task Force members in attendance were:

- Jim Rich – Co-Chair, CTB Member
- Anne Coyner – Upperville Citizen Representative
- Jim Burton – Member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
- Childs Burden – Middleburg Citizen Representative

VDOT attendees:

- Jim Zeller – Loudoun Preliminary Engineering Manager
- Larry Tomlinson – Area Construction Engineer

Aldie Residents:

- Residents of Aldie were in attendance. A sign-in sheet was circulated and is attached.

Co-Chair Jim Rich called the meeting to order.

### **Minutes:**

The minutes from the March 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

### **Financial Report:**

The May 2001 Route 50 Corridor Report on Expenditures by Project and Phases was reviewed by the Task Force members.

### **Gilberts Corner:**

A compilation of crash data by VDOT Traffic Engineering staff was distributed for review. This combined crashes reported by the Virginia State Police with the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. The Task Force requested that VDOT retain the services of national roundabout expert Michael Wallwork to review the data and field conditions, and make recommendations for corrective measures. VDOT's Roundabout Committee would also be consulted. Corrective measures can include modifications to signs, pavement markings and/or the addition of rumble strips at the approaches to the main roundabout.

The need for guardrail at the northeast corner of the main roundabout was again discussed. Mr. Zeller explained that the need for guardrail is based on protecting motorists from roadside hazards, that guardrail itself is considered a roadside hazard, and that guardrail is typically warranted when the roadside hazard is considered a greater danger than the guardrail. The matter will be referred to VDOT's Traffic Engineering staff for review.

Differing speed zones on Watson Road approaching the roundabout were again identified. Mr. Zeller will confirm with a field visit and follow up with Traffic Engineering staff.

### **Aldie:**

Mr. Zeller reported the construction bid results that were received on April 27. General Excavation, Inc. was the apparent low bidder at approximately \$3.9 million, A&M Concrete

Corp. (the Upperville contractor) was second at \$4.6 million and Tavares Concrete Co., Inc. was third at \$5.0 million. The low bid resulted in a funding shortfall of about \$650,000, two thirds of which is the cost of restoring the drainage improvements along the north side of Rte 50 between the DeLashmutt Property and Tail Race Road.

Mr. Zeller proposed funding this shortfall using the remaining funds from the Upperville project, about \$400,000, and the West of Middleburg project, about \$500,000 available. The Task Force approved this funding plan.

Discussion on the groundbreaking ceremony. The desired date of June 10 was confirmed. Mr. Zeller proposed holding the ceremony at the Mercer Tavern (Tucker Withers property), and this location was approved by the Task Force.

Discussion on the contract award. Mr. Zeller reported that the contract is scheduled for action at the June 15 CTB meeting. The Task Force asked if the award could be accelerated to the May 18 meeting and Mr. Zeller said he would investigate.

Aldie residents, particularly the Aldie Volunteer Fire Department, reiterated the need for a pre-construction meeting with VDOT construction staff and its contractor. Mr. Zeller and Mr. Tomlinson agreed.

Aldie residents requested that the project page within the VDOT web site be updated to show the current plans and schedule. Mr. Zeller agreed to work on this.

**Upperville:**

Anne Coyner discussed the deterioration to the “Imprint” material used to simulate pavers is progressing to the point where pieces of the material is separating from the underlying pavement. Also, the damaged concrete curbing from the snow plows during the winter months still has not been repaired. Mr. Rich requested a “full report” on what is happening with the Imprint by the next meeting and that Gaby Hakim, VDOT’s Maintenance Manager in Loudoun County, contact him to provide updates to the scheduled concrete repairs and other scheduled maintenance work.

Mr. Zeller explained that some of VDOT’s maintenance work is constrained by whether or not the item to be repaired represents a safety issue to the traveling public, and that items that are not generally receive a lower priority for maintenance.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):**

Mr. Zeller proposed expanding the scope of the maintenance MOU to specify enhanced levels of service for items unique to the Route 50 Traffic Calming Corridor, which extends from the village of Lenah to the village of Paris, but with greater emphasis on the portion of the corridor from Gilberts Corner west. The Task Force agreed with this approach.

**Other:**

Concerns were again raised about the new guardrail that was installed on Route 15 near Oatlands. It was suggested that the new guardrail deprives motorists of the ability to pull off the road and that it hinders snow removal. Mr. Zeller agreed to follow up with Traffic Engineering staff on the placement of the guardrail and with Maintenance staff on impacts to winter operations.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting was not scheduled.