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September 24th 2014

Mr. Edward Long
County Executive, Fairfax County
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax VA, 22035

Dear Ed:

As Co-Chairman of the Seven Corners land Use and Transportation Task Force I'm pleased to report that we have essentially completed our work on the Seven Corners CBC all except for area C which will go into special study. It has taken us two years of fairly intense work to achieve a unanimous vote last evening recommending approval.

I am proud to have been a part of the effort to propose a redevelopment of the large number of obsolete and poor quality 60 and 70 year old substandard multifamily housing units, auto oriented, dated and underperforming retail and a no go zone for pedestrian and bicycle users into a completely revitalized area planned for residential, retail and office mix of uses. The plan is to create activated street frontages with shops and restaurants that are pedestrian friendly, mass transit focused development utilizing East Falls Church (Silver Line) METRO, and making the pedestrian and bicycle use a design fixture as part of the street grid.

And at the end of the day our plan adds a significant number of market rate residential units that is estimated to bring in approximately \$500,000,000 in annual new spending power here. This is a huge game changer for this area and will make the mixed use, activated street frontages that are METRO oriented a reality.

However, the work of the Task Force (TF) could not have done without the complete cooperation, cheerful assistance and very creative work done by your Fairfax County Staff. All of it taking place in over two years of regular evening meetings. County staff from the Department of Planning and Zoning, Office of Community revitalization and the Office of Transportation were essential to the eventual success of the TF efforts.

I'd like to specifically mention that from the Department of Planning and Zoning besides Fred Selden who kept the staff resources flowing, Marianne Gardner over the long two year haul was always a really fine steady hand, she was always ready to pitch in wherever needed—never said that it couldn't be done and did a fine job of crafting language and managing her staff. Bernie Suchicital developed the plan language and was very helpful at the Design and later on the Transportation Charrette's, Kim Rybold a quiet presence wrote much of the Plan language and did the data studies and sitting through endless night meetings with us,

From the Office of Community Revitalization besides Barbara Byron who was Key to managing the process and who worked continuously with me for the two years, one on one much of the time, was quiet

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and efficient at getting results. Her staff, especially, Elizabeth Hagg performed splendidly despite a bout with illness and was a key presence at all of the meetings she attended. She always had the information needed or immediately got it to us, she always found a way to address difficult topics and was a key player in our deliberations. She also did a great job with work planning, minutes and agendas. Joanne Fiebe, besides taking extensive minutes for two years (a thankless but critical job as they were posted on line for the community to know what the TF was doing) was immeasurably important to the process through her design background. She developed the actual architectural layouts for us and made the “ideas” real with her three dimensional drawings and layouts. This ability was critical to the TF understanding what the actual development could look like when we were in the process of making development proposals. She was also the Key person that took on the Design Charrette work and was instrumental in that process huge success. Hyojung Garland was assisting Elizabeth and Joanne and also played a strong role in the designs with Joanne.

The Office of Transportation staff was as we have come to expect, excellent and clear to the point of making complex intersection and traffic topics understandable enough that the TF could actually make reasonable suggestions, choices and decisions.

Tom Biesiadny who was a key player in a number of very important and difficult citizen meetings, and the Falls Church Council meeting also played a strong part in the Transportation Charrette and did a superb job of managing his team by bringing in his transportation experts (traffic, transportation planning, METRO, mass transit, bus transfer, & etc) as needed. Kris Morley-Nikfar was for much of the two year process part of the Mike Garcia – Kris Morley-Nikfar team—they were undistinguishable (this is a compliment!) almost as one, but when Mike Garcia had to move to another position in Montgomery County, Kris had a chance to shine individually and he impressed us all at the joint Falls Church City Council and County meeting on September 15, but also as the lone transportation expert advising the TF at some difficult citizen comment meetings. Kris is bright and speaks very clearly and precisely making his presentations matter of fact, easy to follow, understand and entirely believable. Whenever I asked for something he came through!

It is my hope that the individuals I mentioned above will get some sort of recognition by Fairfax County for a superbly well done job. Let me also add as a resident citizen of Fairfax County for over 42 years, you have my compliments for having such a fine group of public officials on staff!

Best,

John H. Thillmann

Co-Chair Seven Corners Land Use and Transportation Task Force

CC: Chairman Sharon Bulova
Supervisor Penelope Gross
Rob Stalzer