

John H. Thillmann
Co-Chairman Seven Corners
Land Use and transportation Task Force

Mason District Govt. Center, 6507 Columbia Pike Annandale, VA 22003

Sept 15, 2013

Honorable Jeff McKay, Chairman, NVTC
C/O Mariela Garcia-Colberg
Public Transit and Grants Specialist
2300 Wilson Blvd. Suite 620
Arlington VA 22201

Dear MS Garcia-Colberg

As was stated in our letter back on July 25th the Seven Corners Land Use and Transportation Task Force appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in September of 2012 has been heavily engaged in evaluating and developing both land use options and the potential transportation alternatives that can be used in developing a new Master Plan to revitalize the Seven Corners area. And, after deliberations over the past year, we will put forth a proposed draft land use plan for review in our October meeting. Thereafter, in November we will hold a Transportation Charrette for Task Force members and to which we would like to invite NVTC (and your consultant Mr. Flood) to participate.

On three occasions, May 14th, July 11th and September 10th we have had the NVTC Route 7 Transit Alternatives Consultant Mr. Michael Flood, brief the Task Force on the progress of your study. At the last briefing Mr. Flood indicated that your study alternatives had been pared down to 4 alternative modes and that there was also an alternative alignment that you were asking for comment on.

As we stated in our earlier NVTC letter, the Task Force applauds the work that has been done by the consultant and we are encouraged by the interesting and important origins and destination findings which in our opinion underscores both the justification and the need for a transit system significantly better than currently exists.

The Task Force voted to recommend that two alternatives be in the final mix; Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). And we also voted to recommend the Falls Church Metro station loop be added as an alignment.

If Light rail is not chosen then BRT makes the most sense and will support the new destination that we are creating for Seven Corners especially in light of the fact that BRT creates a fixed guide-way that could at some future time be elevated to the status of Light Rail. The Falls Church Metro loop also makes a great deal of sense as it allows those using Rt 7 to get to both western Fairfax and Loudoun Counties as well as to Arlington and DC without having to travel all the way to Tysons or Alexandria for METRO Access. And from our perspective it brings the Falls Church METRO site right into the Seven Corners Plan.

John H. Thillmann
Co-Chairman Seven Corners
Land Use and Transportation Task Force

CC: Supervisor Penelope A. Gross, Vice Chair, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Seven Corners Land Use and Transportation Task Force
Ms. Barbara Byron, OCR, Fairfax County
Mr. Michael Garcia, OT, Fairfax County