

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

July 1, 2013

Honorable Penelope Gross
Supervisor, Mason District
Vice Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Mason District Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike

Dear Supervisor Gross:

As you know the seven Corners land Use and Transportation Task Force just held its Design Charette on Thursday June 27th and we very much appreciated your excellent and motivating Kick Off address.

In my opinion, it was a spectacular success due fundamentally to two things. Firstly, the well spent time we put into educating the whole Task Force on the various essential background issues such as local population demographics, housing, zoning, planning, economic development, mixed use development, retail, public art, transportation, education, development financials, bus tour of the area and developing a set of overall principles. This information along with the subcommittee reports on quality of life and connectivity enabled the group to have the proper background to understand learn practical lessons on redevelopment issues facing Seven Corners and the group was then able to use that common knowledge to collaborate to great effect in the Charette. The almost amazing result for the Charette was among the participants there was a very strong unanimity of a common land use and design vision for the Seven Corners area. The work continues but we have established a strong foundation for the next phase of the Task Force's work.

Secondly, the Charette outcome was equally due to the very superior performance of three members of the County Staff. I am writing this letter as Co-Chairman on behalf of the Task Force to make sure that we appropriately recognize Barbara Byron, Elizabeth Hagg and JoAnne Fiebe. Without the time and effort that they put into providing both the background materials for the meetings over the past 9 months, giving us 100% support whenever we asked and in making the Charette a flawless and smooth exercise, the Task Force effort would have been more difficult and indeed likely not have achieved the same successful result. Clearly, other members of the staff including from your office, OCR, Office of Planning, Office of Transportation, Park Authority and other outside experts also played key roles over the past 9 months and at the Charette, but Barbara, Elizabeth and JoAnne provided the framework, worked out the myriad details and managed the effort from start to finish.

Best Wishes,

John Thillmann

cc Seven Corners Task Force members

Barbara Byron
Elizabeth Hagg
JoAnne Feibe