

Four Mile Run Joint Task Force – 12/2/21 - Summary of Questions and Discussion

Attendees

- Steve Sockwell – Arlington County JTF Co-Chair
- Liz Birnbaum – City of Alexandria JTF Co-Chair
- Kurt Moser – Four Mile Run Conservancy
- Jonathan Krall – City of Alexandria Bike/Ped Commission
- Steve Walz – City of Alexandria Lynnhaven community
- Leo Sarli – Arlington Planning Commission
- Whitney and Erik Long – Arlington Ridge Civic Association
- David Howell – Arlington Parks and Recreation Commission
- Aileen Winqvist – Arlington County DES
- Jason Widstrom - Arlington County DES
- Jason Papacosma - Arlington County DES
- Bethany Heim - Arlington County DPR
- Judy Lo - City of Alexandria Parks
- Ana Vicinanza - City of Alexandria Parks
- Jesse Maines - City of Alexandria TE&S
- Brian Rahal - City of Alexandria TE&S

Staff from Arlington and Alexandria provided a presentation with updates on several projects.

Question: When Dominion removes power lines, will they remove the bases? Judy Lo: Yes, the bases will be removed as well.

David Howell: Dominion has some good videos describing the undergrounding process and removal of the bases on their web site. <https://power-viz.com/Glebe/>

Liz Birnbaum: JTF and Staff will need to ensure that any damage to the stream bank and living shoreline areas are repaired after the base removal – both municipalities have spent a lot on the restoration and Dominion should restore anything that is damaged.

Kurt Moser: What is the construction currently going on near that area? Judy Lo: It is not related to the undergrounding – it is likely utility work.

Kurt Moser: Trail bridge replacement on Alexandria side – Is it possible to replace the bridge more quickly? It is concerning that it will be 2 years before the loop is not available. Judy Lo: Funding will be available later in 2022 so we will look at the schedule.

Kurt Moser provided an update on the plans to install a new canoe/kayak ramp. It will be a floating launch area with a stabilizing arm that is ADA compliant.

Jason Papacosma: Where is the kayak launch located? Kurt Moser: The location is near Commonwealth but slightly downstream of the proposed bridge crossing location.

Jason Widstrom: W. Glebe Bridge and Arlington Ridge Bridge. They are both same type of construction which makes it difficult to assess the condition of the bridge until it is very deteriorated. Both bridges need to be replaced, but the County will stagger construction because of traffic concerns.

West Glebe Bridge. 60% design/build contract – construction will start this spring and will last 18 months. Artist working with designer and the bridge will include a decorative metal railing with poured form concrete sides. The repaired bridge will be wider than today with added capacity for pedestrians and bicyclists (12 feet). There will be a five-foot wide elevated bike lane on both sides that will be painted green. After the West Glebe Road bridge is complete, the County will move directly to construction on Arlington Ridge Bridge.

Liz Birnbaum: After several unsuccessful efforts to get the City and the County to adopt the Master Plan component to move the West Glebe bridge downstream from its current location, I will just note here that this idea should not be abandoned permanently. Bridges aren't permanent, and the inability to consider a different location on short notice when the W Glebe bridge began to fail should encourage to engage in long-term planning for the next replacement.

Jason Widstrom: Aesthetic of two bridges will complement each other. The Arlington Ridge Bridge is currently at 30% design.

Question: For the Arlington Ridge bridge, will the sidewalk on downstream side widened?

Jason W: The width is not determined yet. This bridge is more constrained with the electric poles on downstream side and private property. We are looking at cross section and we would like to widen it if feasible. There will be additional engagement coming in 2022 for the bridge design. There is a current project for signal replacement at intersection there, and the trail connection through the intersection may change. Other considerations are additional stairs coming down from Arlington Ridge Bridge, improvements under bridge and new lighting.

Johnathan Krall – West Glebe Bridge. Does bike lane connection to anything on Alexandria side?

Jason W: We are trying to tie in improvements. There are sharrows for bicyclists after they cross the bridge.

David – The bridge is very attractive and nice improvement. It is important to maintain sufficient stream level and connectivity for wildlife corridors.

Jason W: Some repairs will be made to the bridge piers, but the work is mostly on the top of the bridge. The sub-structure is staying the same.

Kurt Moser: Is height of bridge deck increased? In 2019 storm Mt. Vernon bridge was within 1 foot of bridge.

Jason W: Not at this time. The bridge will remain the same height.

Bethany Heim from DPR provided an update on several Arlington County Park projects.

Steve Walz – It is important to plan the stream improvements in conjunction with the community flood improvements. Steve noted he is the new representative for the Lynnhaven area.

David Howell: VDOT series of engagements on Crystal City? How far south? Anything to be concerned about that?

Jason W: Second phase with VDOT – lowering Rt 1. The result of the Phase 1 analysis is that it is feasible to lower it engineering wise, but it would cause delays for traffic. Traffic volumes need to be reduced by 30% to avoid that impact. Could some traffic be diverted?

Comment: VT Innovation center coming in – campus like area. Create some connectivity between this campus and Four Mile Run parks? More natural on Alexandria side? Potential for creative connections?

Very much agree/support the idea of nature connectivity as an opportunity with the VT Innovation Campus

Arlington and Alexandria staff provided updates on Flood Resilience efforts.

<https://alxfloodwatch.onerain.com>

Comment: Hume springs neighborhood - flood zone expansion? Can anything be done to expand flood protection?

The attendees agreed that it would be useful to meeting to meet again in Summer 2022.

Liz Birnbaum - Lot of comments about integrating projects together. Make sure that pieces of projects are being coordinated? That is key role of the JTF.