



**FRIENDS OF WHITE OAK**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**10-23-18 at 7pm**

Members present were Elisse Wright Barnes, Shane Pollin, Dave Feehan, Shana Davis-Cook, Barry Wides, and Pete Fosselman (staff). Kim Jones, June Henderson and Brian Downie were necessarily absent. Several members of the community joined as well. Jeremiah Pope, Fizie Haleem and Richard Romer have resigned from the Board due to relocation or conflicting commitments.

- Pete welcomed everyone.
- Agendas and Minutes were made available to the public.
- Minutes
  - Approved by email from June 4, 2018.
- From the Public
  - No comments
- Presentation on Local Area Transportation Improvements (LATIP) for Hillandale with the Department of Transportation (DOT)
  - Chris Conklin and Andrew Bossi of DOT were guest speakers. Pete explained the purpose of the presentation. He also announced the community meetings for Hillandale LATIP: October 24<sup>th</sup> with Prince George's County, November 7<sup>th</sup> with the ECCAB, an open house on November 8<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing on November 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chris gave an LATIP overview, its history and the meeting the County held last May. An email will be shared soon for comments to be sent to DOT staff.
  - Chris and Andrew explained the proposals which include traffic calming and landscaping for Elton Road, a new slip ramp at New Hampshire & the Beltway, lane widening & improvements at the east and west sides of Powder Mill & New Hampshire. In addition, there are six concepts for Elton Road and the western portion roads of Hillandale on the Prince George's County side. Of the six concepts, DOT prefers number five which restricts a portion of Wooded Way to eastbound only direction.
  - Duffie is waiting on the decision about the proposed improvements.; they will either pay for and build the improvements or write a check to DOT for their LATIP hotel fee.

- Comments & Questions
  - Shana asked for details on the Powder Mill and if it's identified in the master plan?
    - Yes, Chris explained and it's on p. 54 of the master plan.
  - Shana asked when Duffie Companies would pay the LATIP fee for the new Hilton hotel?
    - Fee is normally due by occupancy of the project unless otherwise bonded as the applicant works with DOT.
  - Pete asked about the effects on BRT station?
    - The design of the BRT (and, for that matter, also the State's 495/270 Traffic Relief Plan) are still too early and too large in scale for this proposal at Hillandale to be a significant factor.
    - In both cases the Hillandale proposal would be incidental. If either project has to reconstruct the intersection, interchange, or street frontage: it is unlikely to be because of the Hillandale proposal and more likely to be because of the scale of the other projects' work already demanding reconstruction.
  - Barry asked if the trucks were the primary users being targeted with reference to U-turns at Powder Mill?
  - The impacts of trucks are a longstanding issue and certainly a move that would benefit. However, it's not just trucks that are performing these U-turns. They can include cars from businesses along Elton as well as cars from the neighborhood. Shana asked the build schedule for the improvements?
    - Shane responded that Duffie is prepared to install the calming improvements on Elton Road 1<sup>st</sup>, then the slip ramp and Powder Mill would follow. But he is not sure which would be next. However, the slip ramp and the Elton changes go hand in hand. Without the ramp there can be no LATIP funded calming improvements on Elton. Chris said that DOT would not dictate the order of improvements just as the order of improvements is not dictated in the programs on which the LATIP is modeled.
  - Barry said he thought the County Council could earmark funds for more upgrades.
  - Shana recommended the FOWO write a letter of advocacy.
- Andrew explained the proposed changes for the Prince George's side as indicated on the handout with the six options.
  - Shane said Duffie is trying to fix issues at Powder Mill and if Elton is closed, it will increase the traffic out onto Powder Mill.
  - Shana asked if DOT has studied the impact on Green Forest Drive?
    - No, they have not. It is worth keeping in mind that increasingly restrictive calming measures (such as converting portions to one-way or severing Elton) would push more local neighborhood traffic to these streets.
    - On the other hand, cut-thru traffic is less likely to use these routes as compared to Elton/Wooded. Elton/Wooded provides a very direct path, and other routes are so serpentine that at a certain point using Powder Mill becomes the optimal route in lieu of cut-thrus.
  - Barry asked who are we helping?
    - Shane said the improvements will remove Westbound I-495 trips from both New Hampshire and Powder Mill. The removal of these trips will improve the

flow of New Hampshire at Powder Mill. Improved flow on New Hampshire will reduce the incentive to cut through the neighborhood. Development and associated trips are coming whether these improvements are implemented or not. Shane also mentioned, as a Duffie associate, he will recuse himself from advocating on behalf of FOWO.

- Shana suggested FOWO wait until their November meeting to make a recommendation and write a letter. It was agreed.
- Pete noted these changes offered are not the end of LATIP for Hillandale because there may be future development in the area and those projects will also have to pay their share of the LATIP fee.
- Dave made his presentation of the Visual Pollution Solution.
  - He noted Fizie (who is no longer on the Board because she moved) is no longer part of the proposal. Per Dave's memo the idea is like the Adopt a Road Program with the intent of cleaning up signs, trash and graffiti. In many cases, like the Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP), these services are provided by Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).
  - Barry mentioned he has a program through his synagogue, but it has not been active. Barry thought a more robust version of the program should be looked at. He also noted a program through Adventist Hospital that helps hire homeless people.
  - Group agreed they should pursue Dave's proposal as well as additional ideas.
  - Pete will reach out to a neighbor who is on BUP Board. And he will talk to DOT about any community funds that may be available. Pete will talk to the County's director at the homeless shelter on Gude Drive.
- Comments by Pete
  - Update on overall development projects in White Oak. The September 2018 newsletter has details.
- Next meeting will be determined ASAP for November. Two members have not responded to the Doodle Poll.
- Meeting adjourned