



Town of Dumfries  
Council Meeting

Meeting Date:

November 27, 2012

Agenda Item#

VI - D

AGENDA ITEM FORM

**TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM:**

- CONSENT AGENDA
- PRESENTATION
- ACTION ITEM
- TOWN MANAGER & STAFF COMMENTS
- PUBLIC HEARING
  - Duly Advertised

**PURPOSE OF ITEM:**

- INFORMATION ONLY
- DISCUSSION ONLY
- DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION
  - Introduction       Resolution
  - Ordinance         Grant/MOU
  - By Motion          Bylaws
  - Certificate

**PRESENTER:** G.M. Foreman

**PRESENTER TITLE:** Mayor

**AGENDA ITEM:** VDOT Crosswalk Response Letter

**BACKGROUND / SUMMARY:**

The Council has previously discussed responding to VDOT concerning crosswalks within Town limits

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Dumfries Council Letter to VDOT 8-14-12
- Response from VDOT Referring Matter to Maria Sinner 9-17-12
- Response from Maria Sinner 10-9-10 (date has a typo s/b 12)

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

NO ACTION REQUESTED

Discuss and make recommendations to Council letter in response to VDOT crosswalk(s) within Town limits.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Name: Gerald M. Foreman

Phone#: 703-441-0881

E-mail: hongforeman@dumfriesva.gov

**FOR USE DURING MEETING**

**VOTE:**

PASSED

NOT PASSED

Y	N		Y	N		Y	N	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brewer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forrester
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reynolds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wood						



## DUMFRIES, VIRGINIA

Virginia's Oldest Continuously Chartered Town  
CHARTERED 1749 INCORPORATED 1961

17755 Main Street  
Dumfries, Virginia 22026-2386  
Tel: 703-221-3400 / Fax: 703-221-3544  
[www.dumfriesva.gov](http://www.dumfriesva.gov)

August 14, 2012

Virginia Department of Transportation  
4975 Alliance Drive  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Attention: Mr. Garrett W. Moore

Dear Mr. Moore,

As elected Council Members for the Town of Dumfries, we have had a continued concern over pedestrian safety within the Town limits and our inability to work through VDOT to establish crosswalks at key intersections throughout the Town. Town Staff has spoken with VDOT on several occasions in the past, only to be told why the crosswalks and curb cuts cannot be installed. We feel that such a response is inadequate. We understand that the pedestrian crosswalks typically require receiving walkways to insure the safety of the walking public but this is not the case in many areas throughout the Northern Virginia District.

The Town of Dumfries has three (3) intersections that are safety concerns and require immediate attention. The intersections are located at:

- Route-1 (Jefferson Davis Hwy) & Route 234 (Dumfries Rd / Stage Coach Rd);
- Route-1 (Fraley Blvd / Jefferson Davis Hwy) & Possum Point Rd; and
- Route-1 (Fraley Blvd / Jefferson Davis Hwy) / Main St & Graham Park Rd / Curtis Dr.

The intersections located at Route-1 & Route-234 (Dumfries Rd / Stage Coach Rd) and Route-1 & Possum Point Rd are major thoroughfares yet are not pedestrian friendly. These intersections do not have any crosswalks, mechanisms to stop traffic in order for a pedestrian to cross the street, or sidewalks. With VDOT Officials, and State & Prince William County (PWC) Politicians designating Route-1 as a major transportation artery and an alternate to I-95 traffic, any scenario of not providing for pedestrian safety is incomprehensible.

Route-1 divides the Town of Dumfries in half, the intersection located at Route-1 & Graham Park Rd / Curtis Dr is the only crosswalk in Town to facilitate a cross from East to West over Route-1. This is unacceptable from a transportation planning level. In order for a pedestrian to cross legally over Route-1, a pedestrian would have to walk 1.5 miles to Route-1 & Wayside Dr in Southbridge (not in Dumfries) in order to cross the street.

Route-1 & Graham Park Rd / Curtis Dr has a new McDonald's restaurant under construction in the Triangle Shopping Center and it is anticipated that juvenile pedestrian traffic will significantly increase once the restaurant has opened. The Town at Route-1 & Graham Park Rd / Curtis Dr is constructing a receiving sidewalk along the front of the McDonald's restaurant and is requesting VDOT's immediate attention to this matter and approval of the crosswalk and

pedestrian signals. Once the approval is provided, we further ask that the crosswalk and pedestrian signals be installed immediately.

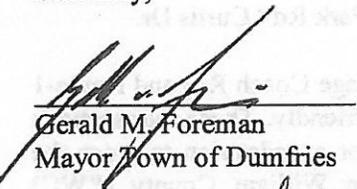
These intersections have been observed to have significant pedestrian volume and appear to be locations where an accident is just waiting to happen. The last crosswalk placed in the Town of Dumfries was due to a horrific death that occurred in October of 2010 when a pedestrian attempted to cross Route-234 in Dumfries with no crosswalk available. PWC Police stated, "Since the victim crossed where there is no crosswalk, the fault of the death lies with the pedestrian."

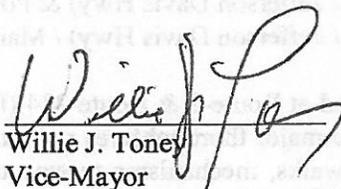
Rather than a VDOT Safety or Impact Study being conducted at all intersections in the Town of Dumfries, no preventative measures were taken to analyze the Town of Dumfries Route-1 traffic. With Route-1 being congested and with roadway improvements forcing six lanes to four lanes at the Route-234 and Triangle entry points to Dumfries, pedestrian safety should be paramount. Currently nothing has been done by VDOT, State & PWC Officials.....someone is going to get hurt. We understand that pedestrian counts have been taken several years ago at these locations and we simple do not agree with the outcomes of VDOT's past studies.

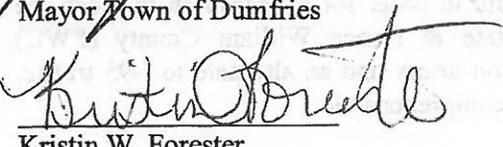
Our elderly, our spouses', our handicapped and our kids, utilize every day the Town's three intersections and there should not have to be a tragic accident in order for authorities to take notice and get involved. Right now, as it is planned, sidewalks and crosswalks will not be put within Town limits until the Route-1 widening is completed in 2026! This is unacceptable.

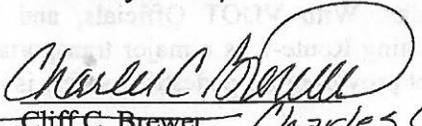
We cannot overstate our pedestrian safety concerns and are requesting our Director of Public Works to set up a meeting with you and/or your staff as soon as possible to be quickly followed by a presentation by VDOT at a Town Council Meeting concerning these issues.

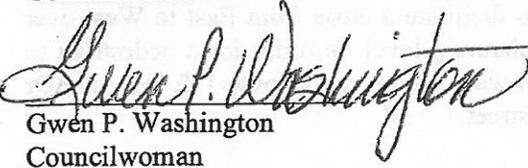
Sincerely,

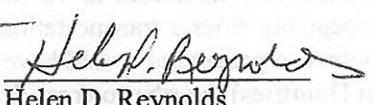
  
Gerald M. Foreman  
Mayor Town of Dumfries

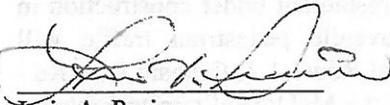
  
Willie J. Toney  
Vice-Mayor

  
Kristin W. Forester  
Councilwoman

  
Cliff C. Brewer  
Charles C. Brewer  
Councilman

  
Gwen P. Washington  
Councilwoman

  
Helen D. Reynolds  
Councilwoman

  
Lois A. Praino  
Councilman



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

4975 Alliance Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

GREGORY A. WHIRLEY  
COMMISSIONER

September 17, 2012

Town of Dumfries Council Members  
17755 Main Street  
Dumfries, VA 22026

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for your letter regarding pedestrian safety along the section of Route 1 within the Town of Dumfries.

Maria Sinner, our Transportation and Land Use Director for Prince William County, will work with Town and VDOT staff to evaluate the intersections described in your letter to determine potential solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garrett W. Moore".

Garrett W. Moore, P.E.  
District Administrator  
Northern Virginia District

DISTRIBUTION:

Mayor Gerald M. Foreman  
Vice Mayor Willie J. Toney  
Ms. Kristin W. Forester  
Ms. Gwen P. Washington  
Mr. Lois A. Praino  
Mr. Charles C. Brewer  
Ms. Helen D. Reynolds

Copy: Maria Sinner



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

4975 Alliance Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

GREGORY A. WHIRLEY  
COMMISSIONER

October 9, 2010

Town of Dumfries Mayor and Council Members  
17755 Main Street  
Dumfries, VA 22026

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Mr. Garret Moore has asked that I thank you for and investigate the areas of concern referenced in your August 12, 2012 letter. VDOT and Town of Dumfries staff have met and looked into these pedestrian safety concerns at the three intersections. A plan of action to address these concerns have been coordinated as follows:

### **Route 1 (Jefferson Davis Hwy) and Route 234 (Dumfries Rd/Stage Coach Rd)**

- A couple years ago VDOT performed a traffic count at this intersection and found a low volume of pedestrian crossings.
- There are major concerns of how the already congested mainline traffic of Route 1 performs with no pedestrian movements at this intersection. Nevertheless, new pedestrian counts will be performed to see if volumes have changed since the last count to evaluate if a pedestrian traffic signal phase/ crosswalk can be justified.
- VDOT, Prince William County, and Town staff are coordinating and reviewing a new development proposal that may create opportunities to address pedestrian crossings at this intersection.

### **Route 1 (Fralely Blvd/Jefferson Davis Hwy) and Possum Point Rd**

- There is a 30ft median that can serve as a refuge for crossing pedestrians to minimize the effects on the already congested mainline.
- Town and VDOT staff believe that the guardrail on the east side of Route 1 can be modified as the existing topography is now different than when it was when it was originally installed. If a current field inspection confirms this analogy, VDOT will perform this modification to allow room for improvements needed for a pedestrian crossing.
- Per the Town's Director of Public Works, the Town can do civil improvements to sidewalks and light grading. VDOT can make modifications to signals and striping to install crossings.

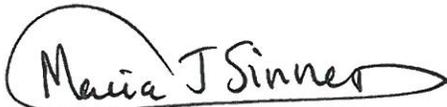
**Route 1 (Fralely Blvd/Jefferson Davis Hwy) and Main St and Graham Park Rd/Curtis Dr**

- VDOT proposes to install a crossing across Graham Park Rd. between the Dunkin Doughnuts and the McDonald's; this will tie into the crossing at Route 1 towards the Dunkin Doughnuts.

These are the recommendations from staff and I believe it addresses two of the three concerns. We will share with you the results of the new counts at Route 234 once that information has been ascertained to further determine an appropriate plan of action.

Again, thank you for bringing these concerns to our attention. If you would like to discuss further, please contact Nichalos Gardner, VDOT's Assistant Transportation and Land Use Director for Prince William County, at 703-259-3344. Mr. Gardner will be coordinating efforts on behalf of VDOT and working with the Town of Dumfries staff to implement these items.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria J Sinner". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Maria Sinner, P.E.  
VDOT Transportation and Land Use Director  
Prince William County

**Distribution:**

Mayor Gerald M. Foreman  
Vice Mayor Willie J. Toney  
Councilwoman Kristin W. Forester  
Councilwoman Gwen P. Washington  
Councilman Lois A Praino  
Councilman Charles C. Brewer  
Councilwoman Helen D. Reynolds

Copy: Greg Tkac - Dumfries  
Garret Moore - VDOT  
Nichalos Gardner - VDOT