

Donaldson Run Civic Association

December 20, 2021

Natasha Alfonso-Ahmed
Coordinator, Plan Langston Boulevard
Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Natasha:

I understand that the December 13, 2021 Plan Langston Blvd (PLB) community outreach meeting was well-attended and solicited a robust airing of resident concerns regarding prior iterations of PLB. Many residents have expressed frustration that their concerns had not been heard. Your willingness to remain on line to hear all residents in the speaker queue was appreciated. On behalf of the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA), I also commend the decision to sever Missing Middle considerations from the PLB process.

This seems an opportune time to reinforce some key concerns expressed in the December 13th meeting as the PLB team develops the Preliminary Concept Plan (PCP).

The fears regarding eminent domain expressed by residents with homes in the impacted areas are real. From what we have read, we assume this prospect is off the table from the perspective of staff and the County Board, but let us know if that assumption is incorrect.

Several comments urged that PLB conduct necessary impact analyses with respect to school capacity, infrastructure and transportation/parking. While PLB's website followup to the December 13th meeting states that the PCP will identify potential system-wide/site changes that will be needed in these areas, mere identification of needed changes is not sufficient. In the strongest terms, DRCA urges the PLB team to conduct and provide data from objective, professional analyses of impacts to schools, infrastructure, transportation/parking, etc. of any proposals before considering them for further discussion in the PCP. Data on these impacts is necessary for residents to provide any sort of meaningful feedback on the proposed PCP.

DRCA expects that the PCP will actually reflect the significant community concerns expressed in the December 13th meeting and in previous community engagements. It was disturbing that so many participants expressed distrust in the accuracy of PLB's presentation of their previously-submitted comments. Failure to reflect the legitimate concerns of residents most affected by proposed PLB changes will result in loss of credibility for the entire process.

Finally, DRCA supports the suggestion made by the Yorktown Civic Association (December 9, 2021 email from Mike Cantwell) that PLB reduce the number of overlapping actors/organizations involved in the PLB process as a means of streamlining messaging and avoiding confusion. In addition, DRCA urges that

in future community engagement events, PLB require that speakers representing interest groups, advocacy organizations and similar constituencies identify themselves and their interests clearly so as to distinguish their viewpoints from those of corridor residents speaking in their individual capacities. Since several individuals involved in the PLB effort represent more than one constituency, it is especially important to understand on whose behalf these individuals are speaking.

Thanks again for your consideration of DRCA's concerns.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Bill Richardson
President
Donaldson Run Civic Association