

Board of Supervisors

Paul V. Milde, III, Chairman
Meg Bohmke, Vice Chairman
Jack R. Cavalier
Wendy E. Maurer
Laura A. Sellers
Gary F. Snellings
Robert "Bob" Thomas, Jr.

Thomas C. Foley
County Administrator

Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting AGENDA

October 3, 2017 – 12:00 Noon
Conference Room A/B/C, Second Floor

Committee Members: Chairman Bob Thomas, Wendy Maurer, Gary Snellings

Agenda Item	
1.	Discuss a Street Light Program Similar to Prince William County
2.	Discuss the Renaming of Big Spring Lane
3	Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update
4.	Consider an Ordinance Change Regarding Bamboo Growth
5.	Authorize Applications for Purchase of Development Rights/Land Conservation
	Next CEDC meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2017 (tentative)

CEDC10032017agenda



Street Light Program

October 3, 2017

- Staff has researched and coordinated with Prince William County staff and has learned the following regarding their program.
- The lighting program would cover installations along public/state maintained roadways. Any lighting requests within areas which are deemed private, i.e. private roads, private drives, parking lots, etc. would have to be handled by either the developer, HOA or the actual property owner.
- Requests for new or additional lighting along public/state maintained roadways would need to be routed through the Supervisor's office. In addition, if the Supervisor elects to move forward with the project then a petition showing support for the installation(s) may be required by the surrounding properties owners within the vicinity of the proposed location(s).
- The Street Lighting Branch coordinates the planning and installation of new streetlights along public/state maintained roadways within the County. The County works with two servicing power companies, Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion) and Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC), to provide services for streetlights.
- The County allocates approximately \$124K to this program each year from its General Fund. With there being seven Magisterial Districts, each District receives \$17,712 to erect new lights.
- The Street Lighting Branch has an operating budget of \$1.8 million a year (as prices rise, this budget gets increased – currently responsible for 7,000 lights) which goes towards monthly electric bills and maintenance fees (unmetered electricity and maintenance).
- This Branch consists of two full-time employees; one coordinator and the other who handles the billings and maintenance.
- Staff is seeking guidance from the Community & Economic Development Committee if they wish to pursue establishing a similar street lighting program for the County or have staff gather more information.

Current Situation

- Big Spring Lane has a configuration in the form of two streets.
- One street is publicly maintained and the other is a private street.
- Stafford County Code, Chapter 28, Section 28-147, '*Road names shall be assigned to all public and private vehicular accesses serving more than one principal building, when such buildings cannot be clearly identified from any intersection road.*'
- The private street needs to be renamed for public safety reasons.

Proposed End State

- Rename the private street segment of Big Spring Lane with unique addresses to minimize confusion for mail delivery and emergency response.
- Renaming the private segment is in compliance with Article IX, Addressing of the Stafford County Code.

Request for the CEDC Committee/Board of Supervisors

- Consider a BOS referral to the Planning Commission to rename the private segment of Big Spring Lane.
- Staff will provide three names suggested by the majority of the property owners.

Benefits to the County

- Approval of the ordinance amendment would clarify the location of the publicly maintained Big Spring Lane and establish a new name for the private segment.
- The amendment would improve public safety by reducing confusion of the location of buildings currently along the private segment not easily noticeable from the intersection of the two segments.



Big Spring Lane & Private Road Location Map with Aerial Photos

Produced by the Stafford County Department of Planning and Zoning
540-658-8668 | P.O. Box 339 Stafford, VA 22555



0 200 400 800 Feet

Data layers are compiled from various sources and are not to be construed or used as a "legal description." Data layers are believed to be accurate, but accuracy is not guaranteed.



Current Situation

- The current Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan was adopted in 1996.
- Updating this plan is an action item in the 2016-2036 Comprehensive Plan.
- A plan update is needed to reflect current conditions, public needs, safety considerations and related planning efforts.

Proposed End State

- An updated Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan which will serve as a guide for the development of a cohesive facility network in a rapidly growing county.

Request for the CEDC Committee/Board of Supervisors

- Consider a BOS referral to the Planning Commission to prepare the plan amendment.
- Provide guidance for the desired level of public involvement
 - Public meetings/workshops
 - Surveys
 - Stakeholder involvement: local running/cycling groups, schools, HOA's, etc.

Benefits to the County

Well-planned bicycle & pedestrian facilities can:

- Provide alternative modes of travel and recreational opportunities;
- Reduce occurrences of vehicle & bike/pedestrian collisions;
- Enhance access to public facilities, commercial areas, and Stafford's natural & historical assets;
- Support economic development initiatives by encouraging tourism & providing an attractive environment to live & work;
- Make the greatest use of available funds

Stafford County Community and Economic Development Committee

October 3, 2017

Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Plan Update

Project

Provide an update to the 1996 Stafford County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to reflect current conditions, public needs, existing & planned projects, safety, and related planning efforts.

Basis for Plan

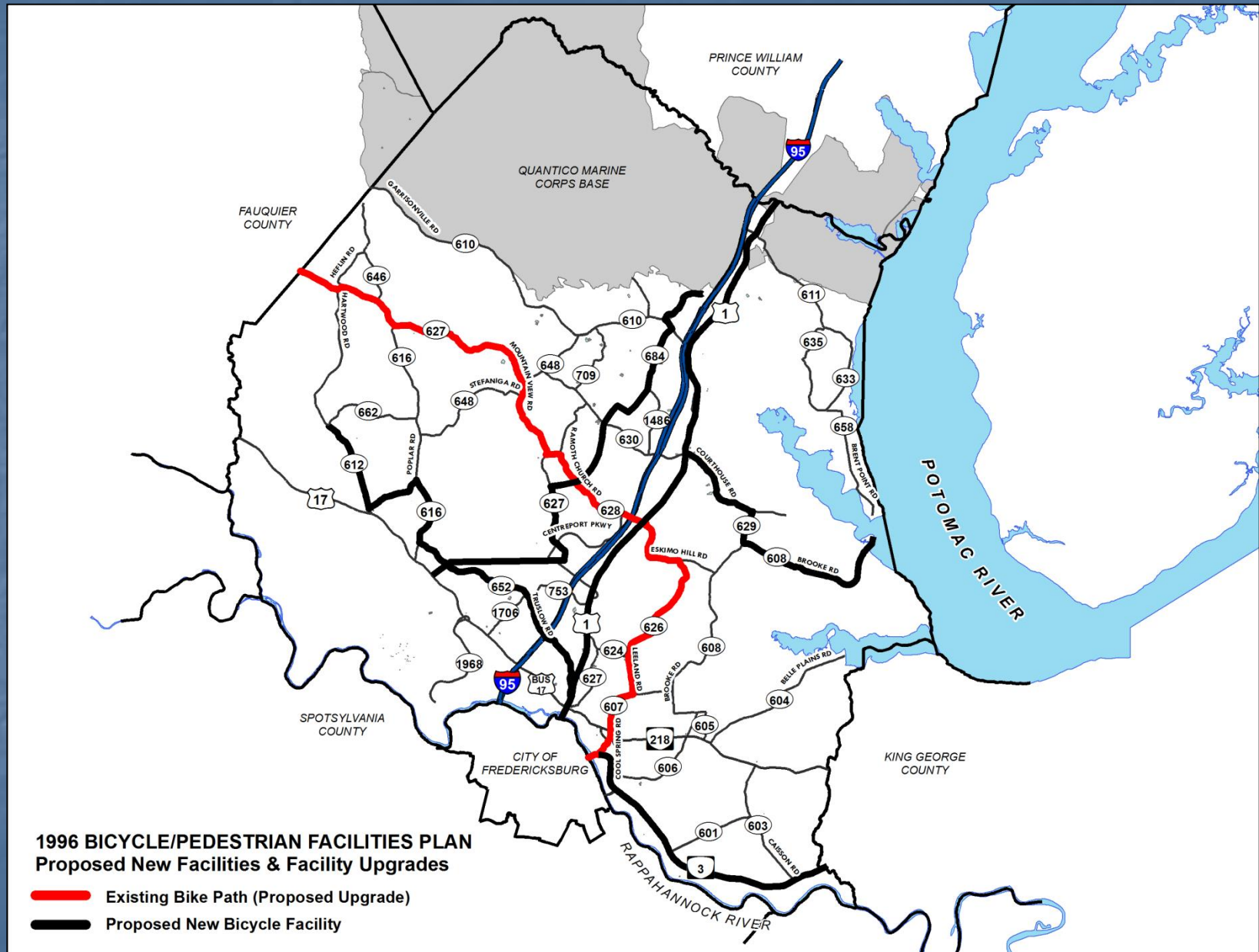
- Action Item in 2016-2036 Comprehensive Plan to update the Bike & Pedestrian Facilities Plan, and to explore the potential for trails within utility easements.

	<i>Action Number</i>	<i>Action Task - Plan Elements</i>	<i>Responsible Entity*</i>	<i>Short Term</i>		<i>Mid Term</i>			<i>Long Term</i>	<i>Complete by:</i>
				<i>Year 1 (2016)</i>	<i>Year 2</i>	<i>Year 3</i>	<i>Year 4</i>	<i>Year 5</i>	<i>Year 6 +</i>	
TRANSPORTATION	TR1)(a)	Adopt the Transportation Implementation Plan	PW / P&Z / PRCF / PC / BOS / Consultant	XXXX						9/30/2017
	TR1)(b)	Update the County's traffic model and utilize in developing the Transportation Implementation Plan	PW / P&Z / PC / BOS / Consultant	XXXX						9/30/2017
	TR2)(a)	Update the Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Plan	P&Z / PRCF / PC / BOS		XXXX	XXXX				12/31/2017
	TR2)(b)	Explore the potential for bicycle and pedestrian trails to be located in pipeline, electrical, or other easements	P&Z / PRCF		XXXX	XXXX				12/31/2017
		Establish corridor guidelines that integrate transportation	PW / P&Z /		XXXX					

1996 Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Plan

- In 1996, the Board adopted Stafford's first Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Recommendations from this plan include:
 - 1 mile of bicycle trails and 1 mile of hiking trails per 1,000 population
 - 58 miles of new bicycle facilities, and 24 miles of existing facility upgrades
 - Revisions to the Subdivision and Zoning Ordinance to ensure that adequate facilities are provided

1996 Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Plan



County Assets

■ Natural

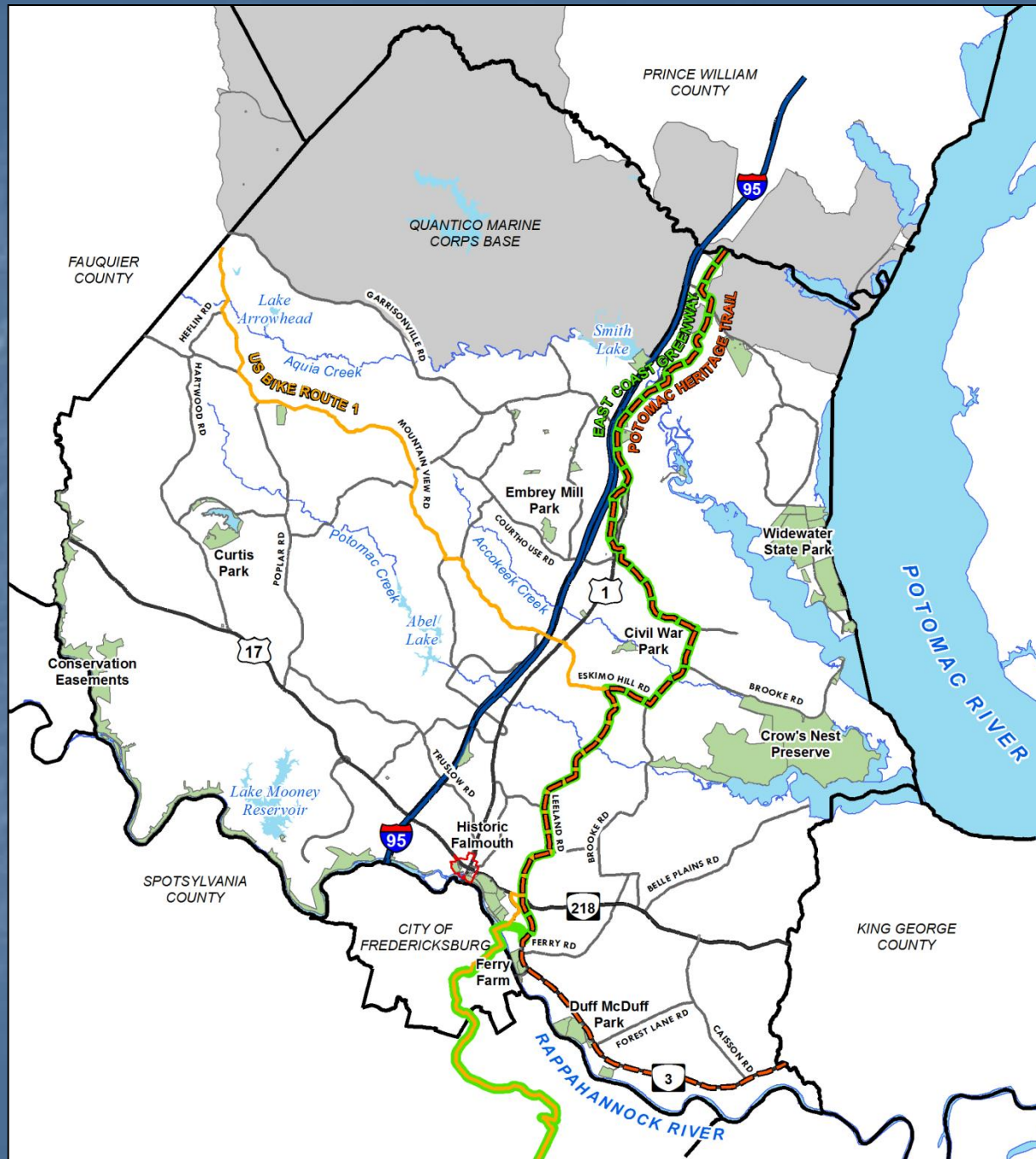
- Potomac River, lakes, streams & riparian areas

■ Historical

- Ferry Farm
- Civil War
- Falmouth Village

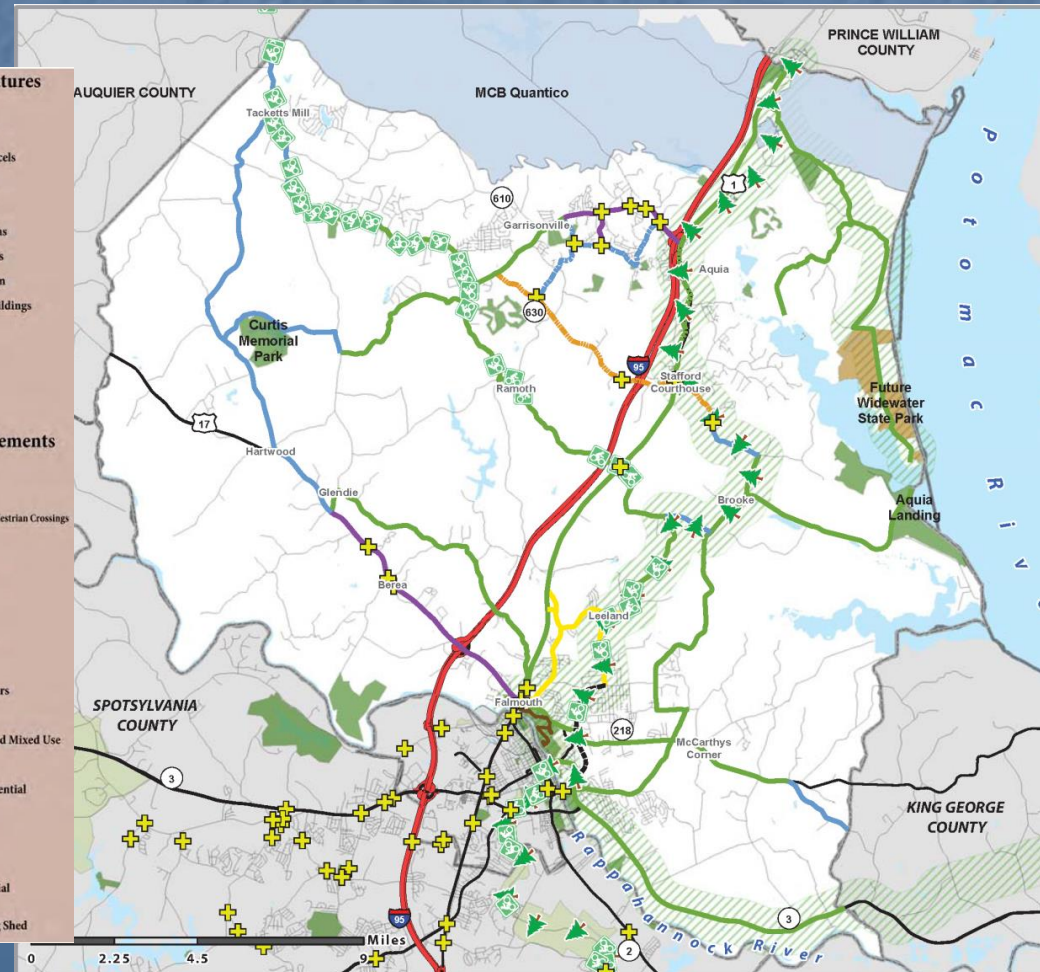
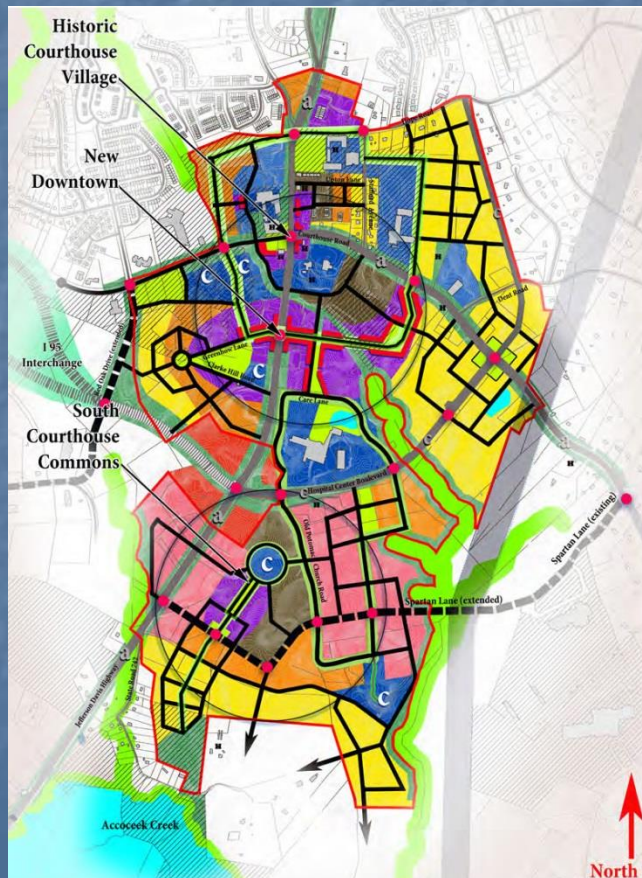
■ Recreation

- County, State & Federal Parks
- East Coast Greenway
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- US Bike Route 1
- Captain John Smith Trail



Related Planning Efforts

- Stafford planning areas, special area plans
- Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Virginia Outdoors Plan
- Adjacent locality plans
- 2013 George Washington Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Regional trails



Facility Planning Considerations

Gaps in Existing Network

- Identify where small improvements can provide links between larger trail/sidewalk networks

Public Facilities

- Connecting neighborhoods to schools & parks

Natural Features

- Utilizing riparian corridors for trail connections, and providing greater bike/ped access to natural assets such as Crow's Nest Preserve, Widewater State Park, & major waterways

Roads & Utilities

- Coordinating bike/ped facility projects with road & utility projects, explore co-location within existing utility easements

Neighborhoods

- Utilizing low speed, low volume neighborhood roads to create safe bike/ped connections

Planning Areas

- Special circumstances effecting bike/ped recommendations within planning areas

Safety

-
- CRASHES INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS OR BICYCLES 2014-17**
- ★ Vehicle - Pedestrian Crash
 - ★ Vehicle - Bicycle Crash

Stakeholders

- Citizens
- GWRC/FAMPO
- VDOT
- DCR
- East Coast Greenway Alliance
- Potomac Heritage Trail Association
- Adjacent localities
- Schools
- County Departments – Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Economic Development, Utilities, Fire & Rescue, Sheriff
- Local cycling & running groups
- Neighborhood associations & businesses

Plan Status

Staff is currently:

- Establishing the general framework of the plan and plan goals/objectives
- Reviewing existing conditions and related planning efforts
- Developing initial findings and recommendations
- Looking at revisions/additions to current planned bike/pedestrian facility routes

Next Steps:

- Staff is requesting a BOS referral to the Planning Commission to prepare the plan amendment
- Review public input process: surveys and/or meetings for citizens and stakeholders

Questions / Comments?



Current Situation

- Bamboo is a non-native invasive species. It is used by property owners in landscaped areas of yards for screening, erosion control and beautification.
- Staff have received complaints from citizens that property owners have allowed bamboo plants to become overgrown and run onto adjacent property.
- Bamboo plants spread by extension of their root systems and are difficult to contain.
- State Code provisions allow localities to regulate “running bamboo” similar to provisions for removal of tall grass and trash.

Proposed End State

- The County would enforce complaints of running bamboo similar to tall grass and accumulation of trash on private properties.

Request for the CEDC Committee/Board of Supervisors

- Consider adopting local ordinance provisions for the removal of running bamboo and potential civil penalties associated with landowners not properly containing bamboo.

Benefits to the County

- Adopting such provisions will maintain high community standards by reducing the nuisance affects of running bamboo.

§ 15.2-901. Locality may provide for removal or disposal of trash, cutting of grass, weeds, and running bamboo; penalty in certain counties; penalty.

A. Any locality may, by ordinance, provide that:

1. The owners of property therein shall, at such time or times as the governing body may prescribe, remove therefrom any and all trash, garbage, refuse, litter and other substances which might endanger the health or safety of other residents of such locality; or may, whenever the governing body deems it necessary, after reasonable notice, have such trash, garbage, refuse, litter and other like substances which might endanger the health of other residents of the locality, removed by its own agents or employees, in which event the cost or expenses thereof shall be chargeable to and paid by the owners of such property and may be collected by the locality as taxes are collected;
2. Trash, garbage, refuse, litter and other debris shall be disposed of in personally owned or privately owned receptacles that are provided for such use and for the use of the persons disposing of such matter or in authorized facilities provided for such purpose and in no other manner not authorized by law;
3. The owners of occupied or vacant developed or undeveloped property therein, including such property upon which buildings or other improvements are located, shall cut the grass, weeds and other foreign growth, including running bamboo as defined in § 15.2-901.1, on such property or any part thereof at such time or times as the governing body shall prescribe; or may, whenever the governing body deems it necessary, after reasonable notice as determined by the locality, have such grass, weeds or other foreign growth cut by its agents or employees, in which event the cost and expenses thereof shall be chargeable to and paid by the owner of such property and may be collected by the locality as taxes are collected. For purposes of this provision, one written notice per growing season to the owner of record of the subject property shall be considered reasonable notice. No such ordinance adopted by any county shall have any force and effect within the corporate limits of any town. No such ordinance adopted by any county having a density of population of less than 500 per square mile shall have any force or effect except within the boundaries of platted subdivisions or any other areas zoned for residential, business, commercial or industrial use. No such ordinance shall be applicable to land zoned for or in active farming operation.

B. Every charge authorized by this section with which the owner of any such property shall have been assessed and which remains unpaid shall constitute a lien against such property ranking on a parity with liens for unpaid local real estate taxes and enforceable in the same manner as provided in Articles 3 (§ 58.1-3940 et seq.) and 4 (§ 58.1-3965 et seq.) of Chapter 39 of Title 58.1. A locality may waive such liens in order to facilitate the sale of the property. Such liens may be waived only as to a purchaser who is unrelated by blood or marriage to the owner and who has no business association with the owner. All such liens shall remain a personal obligation of the owner of the property at the time the liens were imposed.

C. The governing body of any locality may by ordinance provide that violations of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty, not to exceed \$50 for the first violation, or violations arising from the same set of operative facts. The civil penalty for subsequent violations not arising from the same set of operative facts within 12 months of the first violation shall not exceed \$200. Each business day during which the same violation is found to have existed shall constitute a separate offense. In no event shall a series of

specified violations arising from the same set of operative facts result in civil penalties that exceed a total of \$3,000 in a 12-month period.

D. Except as provided in this subsection, adoption of an ordinance pursuant to subsection C shall be in lieu of criminal penalties and shall preclude prosecution of such violation as a misdemeanor. The governing body of any locality may, however, by ordinance provide that such violations shall be a Class 3 misdemeanor in the event three civil penalties have previously been imposed on the same defendant for the same or similar violation, not arising from the same set of operative facts, within a 24-month period. Classifying such subsequent violations as criminal offenses shall preclude the imposition of civil penalties for the same violation.

§ 15.2-901.1. Locality may provide for control of running bamboo; civil penalty.

A. For purposes of this section, "running bamboo" means any bamboo that is characterized by aggressive spreading behavior, including species in the genus *Phyllostachys*.

B. Any locality may, by ordinance, provide that:

1. No landowner shall allow running bamboo to grow without proper upkeep and appropriate containment measures, including barriers or trenching; and

2. No landowner shall allow running bamboo to spread from his property to any public right-of-way or adjoining property not owned by the landowner.

C. A violation of a running bamboo ordinance authorized by this section shall be subject to a civil penalty, not to exceed \$50 for the first violation or violations arising from the same set of operative facts. The civil penalty for subsequent violations not arising from the same set of operative facts within 12 months of the first violation shall not exceed \$200. Each business day during which the same violation is found to have existed shall constitute a separate offense. In no event shall a series of specified violations arising from the same set of operative facts result in civil penalties that exceed a total of \$3,000 in a 12-month period.

D. No violation of a running bamboo ordinance arising from the same set of operative facts shall be subject to a civil penalty under both (i) an ordinance adopted pursuant to this section and (ii) an ordinance adopted pursuant to § 15.2-901.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	October 3, 2017
Title:	Authorize Applications for the County's Purchase of Development Rights/Land Conservation Program
Department:	Planning and Zoning
Staff Contact:	Kathy C. Baker, Assistant Director
Board Committee/ Other BACC:	Community and Economic Development Committee
Staff Recommendation:	Approval
Budget Impact:	Request \$745,983 in matching funds
Time Sensitivity:	Applications due by October 27, 2017

ATTACHMENTS:

1.	Background Report	2.	Proposed Resolution R17-259
----	-------------------	----	-----------------------------

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda		Other Business		Unfinished Business
	Discussion		Presentation		Work Session
	New Business		Public Hearing		Add-On

REVIEW:

X	County Administrator	Thomas C. Foley
X	County Attorney (legal review only)	Charles R. Thomas Jr.
X	Finance and Budget	Andrea M. Light for MP

DISTRICT:	N/A
------------------	-----

BACKGROUND REPORT

The Board is asked to consider authorizing applications for matching funds through the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to support the County's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)/Land Conservation program (PDR Program). The PDR Program offers landowners an alternative to selling land for development, thereby preserving the County's open space, agricultural, and forested lands, and natural and cultural resources. Under the PDR Program, the County would pay property owner(s) to prevent land from being developed. The property owner(s) retain ownership of the property and may maintain its existing uses such as agriculture or timbering activities. An agreement is required between the property owner(s) and the County, and a conservation easement would be placed on the approved property.

The PDR Program has \$745,983 available for FY2018. A new PDR application round was announced in June, 2017, and the County received 12 new applications. The following is a list of properties submitted:

Applicant Name	Parcel #	Acreage	Election District
Littlejohn, Janet	59-34,36, 36A	49	George Washington
Johnson, Mary	60-5	22	George Washington
Jones, Kevin	58D-1-35, 35A, 37, 37A	76	George Washington
Snyder, John	36-58D, 58F	46	Hartwood
Moore Estate	39-158	54	Aquia
Beach, Carlton	17-2	33	Hartwood
Harris, John and Cathy	26-3	122	Hartwood
Shelton, Frank	34-46A	82	Hartwood
Brent Point LLC	32-9, 10	34	Griffis-Widewater
Secrest, David	55-157E	58	George Washington
Moore, William	47-70, 47-71, 48-6A	53	George Washington
Caton, Charlotte	17-49G	31	Hartwood
Total		658	

Staff will begin assessing the PDR applications and will make future recommendations to the Board for easement acquisition based on ranking criteria established in County Code Chapter 22A, contingent upon available County funds, and potential matching funds. Initial assessments indicate that approximately \$4.1 million would be necessary to purchase easements on all 12 properties.

In the two previous PDR application rounds, the County applied for matching funds through various agencies to help leverage County funds. To date, the County has contributed \$1.39 million in funds for six PDR easements totaling 450 acres, and has received \$1.55 million in matching funds.

VDACS just announced a new matching funds application round, with \$308,076.17 available for FY2018 for PDR programs state-wide. Applications are due by October 27, 2017. Additionally, matching funds in the amount of \$631,900 are available through NRCS in FY2018 for state-wide applications. An application round will be announced later this year. The County could request up to \$745,983 in matching funds through both agencies, although the amount of funds potentially awarded are dependent upon the number of applications submitted state-wide. Additional matching fund programs could potentially be available in FY2018.

Staff recommends approval of proposed Resolution R17-259, which authorizes the County Administrator, or his designee, to submit applications for matching funds not to exceed \$745,983.

R17-259

PROPOSED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF STAFFORD
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors (the Board) held in the Board Chambers, George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center, Stafford, Virginia, on the 3rd day of October, 2017:

MEMBERS:

Paul V. Milde, III, Chairman
Meg Bohmke, Vice Chairman
Jack R. Cavalier
Wendy E. Maurer
Laura A. Sellers
Gary F. Snellings
Robert "Bob" Thomas, Jr.

VOTE:

On motion of , seconded by , which carried by a vote of , the following was adopted:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR MATCHING FUNDS THROUGH VARIOUS LAND CONSERVATION AGENCIES TO SUPPORT THE STAFFORD COUNTY PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS/LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Board established the County's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program; and

WHEREAS, in September, 2017, twelve new applications were submitted to the County for potential easement acquisition under the PDR program; and

WHEREAS, the PDR Program has \$745,983 available in FY2018 funds for the purchase of development rights on properties located in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) has \$308,076.17 available in FY2018 state-matching funds for localities with certified PDR programs; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to apply for state-matching funds through VDACS by the October 27, 2017 deadline; and

WHEREAS, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has matching funds in the amount of \$631,900 available in FY2018; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to also apply for matching funds through the NRCS;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 3rd day of October, 2017, that the County Administrator be and he hereby is authorized to apply for matching funds through various State and Federal agencies in an amount not to exceed Seven Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars (\$745,983) for the potential acquisition of conservation easements under the County's Purchase of Development Rights Program.

TCF:KCB:kb