



SAVE WOODLAWN STABLES CALL TO ACTION

Please contact Supervisor Gerry Hyland

Save Woodlawn Stables and its supporters have been making a significant impact on the Route 1 Widening issue. The press, citizens, and local politicians have been greatly involved due to the overwhelming efforts of all our active and visible supporters. Our elected officials have all written letters supporting the stables and the widening-in-place option. The over 500 citizens attending the June 5 public meeting and public comments have spurred the FHWA to look at new alternatives, but unfortunately these alternatives continue to include a bypass.

In a huge development last week, the leading state preservation agency, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) wrote the FHWA saying they refused to concur with the FHWA's Section 4(f) determination. Despite it being almost unheard of, FHWA and Fairfax County are prepared to ignore this strongly worded letter and the similar recommendations of other County preservation planners and officials. It also seems that the politicians are also willing to downplay the citizens, lawyers, and the Consulting Parties that are echoing the same comments.

In their July 9, 2012 letter, the DHR said the following:

Section 4(f) Evaluation

At this time DHR is not prepared to concur with FHWA's Section 4(f) evaluation of this undertaking. As can be gathered from our comments above, DHR does not believe that FHWA has demonstrated that there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the use of the land from the Section 4(f) properties; nor do we believe that FHWA has conducted all possible planning to minimize harm to these properties resulting from such use. We again request that FHWA carefully consider the practicability for limited improvements along Route 1 from Belvoir Road to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway/Mulligan Road.

In a recent article, elected officials said they don't want the process to be delayed any further, regardless of the outcome. We believe that the County officials and lawmakers owe it to its citizens to heed the advice of its preservation professionals and follow the proper process even if it means taking a little more time to do it right. Currently, there are some very viable alternative transportation solutions and road designs that would preserve our national historic treasures, meet the County's transportation improvement needs, and save Woodlawn Stables. Fairfax County officials so far are refusing to meet with the historic district's stakeholders about these issues. The main reason for this is because the Federal funding they received for this project allows them to take a larger right of way for a possible yellow line Metro through the historic district in the far off future. We agree with the DHR and other preservation professionals, our historic and community resources are invaluable assets and should not be sacrificed for an anticipated, non-funded, transit system that may never materialize. If funding does become available, planning should be dealt with at that time so that no unnecessary damage comes to these irreplaceable properties.

Please email Mt. Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland (mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov) reiterating the points above and ask him why Fairfax County is not concerned enough about historic preservation to follow the recommendations of its preservation officials, planners and the County's own Historic Overlay District Design Guidelines. Also ask Hyland to support the DHR's Section 4(f) evaluation and require Fairfax County to research an alternative road design that minimizes the harm to the historic district.