

8. COORDINATION

8.1 Agency Coordination

Building upon the earlier U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Feasibility Study, agency coordination for this Environmental Assessment (EA) began with an initial stakeholder meeting in November 2004. The purpose of the initial meeting was to introduce the Federal Highway Administration - Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (FHWA) team to key stakeholders regarding the subject project, to review the past efforts and available data, and to discuss project schedule and study approach. The key agency stakeholders working with FHWA on this action are:

- Fairfax County Department of Transportation
- U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Directorate of Public Works (DPW)
- U.S. Army Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Defense Access Road Program
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Humphreys Engineer Center
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

FHWA conducted an agency scoping meeting on January 24, 2005. Formal notice of the meeting was distributed January 10, 2005. The purpose of this meeting was to present the project to Federal, state and local agencies. FHWA presented the project and study approach for preparation of the NEPA documentation and schedule, as well as reviewed the past work efforts including discussions of previous alternatives and available data.

Numerous other meetings have been held between the project team and key agency stakeholders on many issues during the study process. These issues range from traffic analysis and forecasts, typical sections, alignment and intersection configurations to historic resources mitigation opportunities, cost estimates, and pedestrian/trail locations.

8.2 Public Involvement

Public involvement has been important to this project. Earlier during the USACE study phase, two public meetings had been conducted, on June 23, 2003 and November 17, 2003. For this EA phase, FHWA conducted an initial public informational meeting on February 17, 2005. That meeting presented the project purpose and need, described the NEPA and Section 106 processes, and initial alternatives. FHWA conducted a second public information meeting on October 25, 2005. That meeting outlined the study progress, the refinement of the alternatives, and the progress on numerous issues. Both meetings allowed an exchange of information and comments. For each public meeting, advance notices appeared in local newspapers. Additionally, written comments were received and considered. A public meeting will be conducted on this EA.

FHWA initiated a website for the project activities in January, 2005, and has updated it with displays, handouts, and presentations from each public information meeting. The internet address is:

http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/active_projects_rhtrc.htm

County Supervisors Gerald Hyland and Dana Kauffman created a Citizens Task Force for the project, after the first public meeting in February 2005. The Task Force consists of eight residents from the two planning districts. The Task Force met with Project Team representatives on June 1, 2005; August 31, 2005; January 26, 2006 and May 12, 2006. Briefings included project activities including options for the U.S. Route 1/Old Mill Road/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway intersection, traffic studies, and other coordination efforts. The Task Force recommended conducting the October 2005 public meeting and developing the newsletter preceding it. The Task Force offered comments on the content of an initial draft of this Environmental Assessment.

8.3 Section 106 Coordination

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), described under 3.3 and 4.3. *Cultural Resources*, FHWA initiated a Consulting Parties process regarding potential impacts to cultural resources. FHWA conducted meetings on September 12, 2005 and March 30, 2006 as part of the process. Consulting parties include:

- Virginia Department of Historic Resources, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- Fairfax County Architectural Review Board
- Fairfax County Dept. of Planning & Zoning
- Fairfax County History Commission
- Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation
- Gum Springs Historical Society
- Gunston Hall Plantation
- Historic Mount Vernon
- National Trust for Historic Preservation (Trust)
- Woodlawn Friends Meeting
- VDOT
- U.S. Army Garrison – Fort Belvoir
- Defense Access Road Program

Informal coordination to assist the cultural resources evaluation process also occurred. The project team held numerous meetings with the Trust to discuss potential impacts to the Woodlawn Plantation, a National Historic Landmark (NHL), protected also under Section 110 of the NHPA. Formal consultation was also undertaken with the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service regarding the NHL property.

Table 8-1 lists a summary of several meetings related to cultural resources.

Table 8-1: Cultural Resources Coordination Meetings

DATE	ATTENDEES/CONTENT
5/13/05	FHWA and its consultants met with the Trust, owners of Woodlawn Plantation, Supervisor Hyland, and Fairfax County DOT. The meeting provided an overview of the project, alternatives under consideration, and general options for the Old Mill Road/U.S. Route 1/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway intersection. The Trust agreed to continue discussions. The meeting was held at Woodlawn Plantation.
6/21/05	Fairfax County Supervisor Gerald Hyland organized this meeting to discuss issues surrounding the connector road. The Army offered to transfer 2.5 acres of land adjacent to the Friends Meeting House, from the Army to the Trust. Invited attendees included Major General Jackman, of the Military District of Washington, the Trust, FHWA, COE, Fort Belvoir, Fairfax County DOT, and VDOT. The meeting was held at the Pope-Leighey House.
7/13/05	FHWA met with the Trust to discuss five preliminary concept options for the intersection of Old Mill Road, and Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1), and Mt. Vernon Highway. The intersection is expected to be a terminus of the Connector Road. The meeting was held at HDR offices in Alexandria, VA.
8/9/05	FHWA met with the Trust to discuss four additional concept options developed for the intersection of Old Mill Road/U.S. Route 1/Mt. Vernon Highway and Woodlawn Plantation entrance. The options were based on feedback received at the 7/13/05 meeting, reflecting the historic, pastoral character of Woodlawn Plantation, as well as possible trail options on Woodlawn Plantation property. The meeting was held at HDR.
9/12/05	FHWA convened this first Section 106 Consultation Meeting. Consulting parties who may be signatories to the Memorandum of Agreement to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) were invited to the meeting. The meeting provided the consulting parties with a project overview, a summary of the connector road alternatives selection process, a description of the proposed land transfer to the Trust, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the project, and the status of the widening of U.S. Route 1 through the Historic District. The study team also presented the intersection design options that had been developed by FHWA in consultation with the Trust. The meeting was held at Woodlawn Plantation.
10/7/05	FHWA convened a multi-agency trail coordination meeting for the project. The Trust and Historic Mount Vernon (operators of Washington's Grist Mill, under contract with VDCR) were invited participants, which also included VDOT, Fairfax County and National Park Service staff. Discussion centered on options for linking the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) to Woodlawn Plantation, and options along/onto Fort Belvoir. The meeting was held at HDR.
1/5/06	FHWA met with the Trust to discuss potential project impacts and minimization along their property abutting Old Mill Road and Mount Vernon Highway. Details regarding entrance drive relocation, multi-purpose trail placement, and land transfer were among the topics. The meeting was held at the HDR.
3/20/06	FHWA and DoD met with the Trust to review preliminary engineering lane configuration changes at the Old Mill Road/ Mount Vernon Highway intersection, median and crosswalk locations, trail coordination, and construction phasing. The meeting was held at HDR.
3/30/06	FHWA convened the second Consulting Parties for the Richmond Highway (US Route 1) – Telegraph Road (Route 611) Connector Project. FHWA presented a summary of activities completed since the September meeting, including the alignment refinement process resulting in corridor 4CR. Discussion involved levels of details of mitigation for a proposed Memorandum of Agreement. The meeting was held at Sherwood Regional Library.