

**Comment Summary  
January 21, 2003 Public Meeting  
Mount Vernon Circle Environmental Assessment  
Walt Whitman Middle School, Alexandria, Virginia**

The following is a summary of comments from the second public information meeting held as a part of the public involvement process for the Mount Vernon Circle Environmental Assessment. The meeting occurred on Tuesday, January 21, 2003 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Walt Whitman Middle School in Alexandria, Virginia. The middle school is located northwest of the study area. The public was able to review boards with information related to the project for the first hour, while personnel from the Federal Highway Administration Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division and Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. were available to answer questions. At 7:00 PM, Larry Meisner from Kimley-Horn made a presentation summarizing the project and the recommended alternatives.

Following the presentation, FHWA Project Manager Jack Van Dop facilitated a public comment period when the citizens attending the meeting had the opportunity to offer their opinions about the project and the alternatives. The public was given the option of providing written comments at the meeting or sending in comments via mail until February 28, 2003. Responses to questions and comments given by citizens during the meeting will be posted to the FHWA website (<http://www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/nepa/index.htm>).

A total of 148 people attended the meeting on January 21, 2003. Of the people who attended, 63 provided written comments at the meeting. During the 30-day comment period following the meeting, an additional 89 people submitted comment forms, including approximately 35 citizens who did not attend the public meeting. A total of 152 comment forms were submitted, providing a response rate of approximately 80% of those attending the meeting.

The comment form provided asked two questions. The questions are as follows:

- Which of the preliminary parking alternatives do you prefer?
  - Alternative 1: Parking lot on Mt. Vernon property west of Route 235
  - Alternative 2: Expand East and West Parking Lots plus overflow parking lot on Mt. Vernon property west of Route 235
  - Alternative 3: Expand East and West Parking Lots and expand existing employee parking lot behind Mt. Vernon wall for overflow parking
  - Alternative 4: No-Build
- Which of the three trail alternatives do you prefer?
  - Alternative A: Cross Parkway with bridge, follow existing trail to Route 235, cross Route 235, and continue past post office
  - Alternative B: Continue from end of existing trail through parking lots and around circle to Route 235
  - Alternative C: Cross Parkway with bridge, stay behind west parking lots to Route 235 near the circle

The following paragraphs summarize the public's responses to each of these questions, based on the comment forms received. The complete list of responses is included following the summary.

**Which of the preliminary parking alternative do you prefer?**

- Overall, 71 citizens chose one of the presented alternatives "as is." Of these, six citizens preferred Alternative 1 as presented (5%), four preferred Alternative 2 (3%), 80 preferred Alternative 3 (63%), and 36 preferred Alternative 4 (29%). Also, 238 additional comments were received regarding the parking situation, described below.