



December 4, 2012

Ms. Mary Hynes, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Bergmann's Cleaners Site Plan

Dear Chair Hynes:

I am writing to express the views of the Transportation Commission concerning the County Manager's recommendation for the Bergmann's Cleaners site plan.

The Transportation Commission, by a vote of 7-0, recommends that the County Board adopt the staff recommendation with the following conditions:

- (1) Arlington County shall revisit circulation, parking and signage at the site 12 months after completion;**
- (2) Arlington County shall ask VDOT for on-street parking and a bike lane on the section of Lee Highway/US 29 between North Uhle Street and North Veitch Street;**
- (3) Parking near the driveway entrance to be reviewed;**
- (4) Vacate a portion of 20th Street North from North Uhle Street in an easterly direction to the edge of the proposed site plan property;**
- (5) Amend the MTP to remove a section of 20th Street North from its intersection with North Uhle Street in an easterly direction to its terminus with I-66.**

The Commission heard these items at its meeting on November 19, 2012. The Commission received a presentation from County staff. Six members of the public spoke: Sona Verdi, James Pollack, Joe Taylor, Benjamin Kenney, Dawn Decker and Anita Machhar. Ms. Verdi had issues with the proposed signage on the site. Mr. Pollack had concerns about the potential increase in traffic. Mr. Taylor had concerns on queuing for parking. Mr. Kenney and Ms. Decker both voiced support for the project generally. Ms. Machhar represented the North Highlands Civic Association which supported the site plan by a vote of 30-13 but strongly disagrees with staff regarding the drop off lane.

Commissioners discussed the need for the county to revisit and potentially revisit circulation, signage and parking on the site in response to public comment. However, Commissioners primarily discussed our concerns with the site's proximity to and Arlington's lack of control over the Lee Highway interface. Commissioners believe the streetscape on Lee Highway should be made more pedestrian and bike friendly, but VDOT's control over Route 29 makes this a difficult proposition. Commissioners also discussed a need for a Lee Highway Plan to help guide Lee Highway's transformation into a more multimodal corridor.

Present and voting at the meeting were Commissioners Slatt, Everline, Armbruster, Forinash, Hubbard, Torma and Grant.

I would be glad to answer any questions (703-338-6476).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Grant". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John Grant