



November 30, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: LOCCA/PELT Meeting, November 19, 2020, on Ridgefield Village Traffic Safety

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ridgefield Village Drive/Pilgrims Inn Drive Intersection Sketch prepared by Mr. Richard Weinmann, Prince William County Department of Transportation
2. Coordinated Pedestrian Crossings at Prince William Credit Union

PARTICIPANTS:

- LOCCA President, PELT Committee Chair, LOCCA/PELT Committee Representative for this area, and various LOCCA/PELT Committee members
- Elizabeth Scullin, Chief, Transportation Planning & Programming Division, Prince William County Department of Transportation
- Richard Weinmann, Traffic Safety Engineer, Prince William County Department of Transportation
- George Phillips, Prince William County Department of Transportation
- Robin Bodie, CEO, Prince William Credit Union
- Blake Smith, President and Owner, Blake Engineering
- Mr. James Hicks, President, Dale City Civic Association and various DCCA members
- Ms. Marianne Ramey, Property Manager of Glen Commons Apartments
- Residents from the Mason's Landing HOA community

BACKGROUND:

LOCCA/PELT met on November 19, 2020 via Zoom to discuss traffic safety measures for the Ridgefield Village Drive/Pilgrims Inn Drive intersection. Our goal was to bring the major players together from the, Prince William County Transportation Office, the developer for the Ridgefield Village Retail Center (to include retail uses, a coffee shop with drive-thru, and daycare center), the Prince William Credit Union, and residents from the neighboring HOAs to discuss the traffic safety issues at this very active intersection. Given that as a goal, the objective of the memorandum is to identify steps that are being taken and/or might be taken to identify and mitigate vehicular traffic safety, and importantly, pedestrian, bicycle, and recreational safety concerns. These concerns are especially relevant considering the residences, commerce, and heavily used neighborhood park in this area. Concerns have been raised since the time the Apollo project first came to LOCCA/PELT and were heightened again when Lidl was going to build their facility by-right. Lidl has withdrawn and we now have the Ridgefield Village Retail Center.



A representative from Supervisor Angry's office was not able to be on the call due to scheduling conflicts. However, Tom Burrell had an extensive conversation with Ms. Kelly Easterly, Chief of Staff to Supervisor Angry prior to the meeting. Ms. Easterly wanted to emphasize that traffic safety in this area is very high on Supervisor Angry's priority list and that his office has and continues to coordinate with the developers within this area as well as the County Transportation Office to ensure all is being done that can be done to mitigate traffic issues. It was agreed by Tom and Kelly that Tom needs to coordinate more closely with Ms. Easterly to ensure LOCCA/PELT and DCCA are not getting out in front of issues being worked by the Supervisor's office and that all parties are mutually "up-to-speed" on current activities in the area.

The Apollo project added 100 additional townhomes to the community at large. Ridgefield Village has 307 households impacted and Ridgefield Oaks, also within the impacted area, adds another 80+ homes. The Prince William County Credit Union and the Earl M. Cunard Park are adjacent to the Ridgefield Village Retail Center. There is a need to mitigate hazards and provide safe passage for pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic in this busy area. This would include consideration of such items as intersection lighting, pedestrian stripping, a refuge island feature, and a 4-way stop configuration, all of which were discussed in previous meetings. Background information was provided on how the developer of the Apollo Project offered off-site proffers, such as paying for a 4-way stop configuration, to specifically address and implement traffic safety measures in this intersection area as a part of the Apollo rezoning proffers, if they met the warrants from a traffic study

DISCUSSION NOTES:

Richard Weinmann, County Traffic Safety Engineering Branch Manager, presented a sketch of a possible multiway stop and crosswalk configuration for discussion (see Attachment 1). Crosswalks are proposed for the North, South and East sides of the intersection. The crossing distance was too far to place one on the West side. VDOT is opposed to placing crosswalks mid-block. VDOT approval will depend on results of a warrant study.

Ms. Ceci Barlow provided data from the Traffic Impact Analyses associated with the Ridgefield Village Retail, Lidl, and Apollo projects at the future intersection showing vehicle counts for right turn, straight, and left turn vehicle movements. Richard Weinmann thanked Ms. Barlow for this information and indicated that this will be useful in his analysis.

Elizabeth Scullin, Chief, Transportation Planning & Programming Division, Prince William Department of Transportation, said waiting until children are back in school before they conduct the warrant study will provide the best chance for the study to meet the requirements. Tom Burrell asked when the build out of the site was anticipated. The engineer for the Ridgefield Village Retail Center, Mr. Blake Smith of Smith Engineering estimated that the daycare will commence some time in Spring 2021, but that the other retail uses will come along at their own pace. Ms. Scullin said that the Prince William County Transportation will monitor the traffic to determine when to conduct the warrant study. She indicated that the warrant studies for the 4 way stop, refuge island for pedestrians, and pedestrian crosswalks will be done at the time the activity level was at or near the anticipated build-out level for the warrant study to reflect the actual build-out usage with normal activity.



Robin Bodie, CEO of the PWC Credit Union commented on the cars coming up Ridgefield Village Drive Extension and making a wide turn around the corner at the Park. He also mentioned that basketballs from youngsters playing in the Park were often rolling into the street creating a traffic hazard with children running after the balls. It was agreed that fencing (around the basketball courts) will help eliminate or severely reduce this known safety hazard, and that the proffered Park funds from the Apollo Project likely could pay for this enhancement. He also mentioned an agreement was reached with the site owners/renters to install pedestrian connectors to guide pedestrian foot traffic on the perimeters of the Credit Union and the daycare center. A drawing depicting the locations of the pedestrian connectors was shown and the discussion that ensued clarified these pedestrian safety enhancements. (The drawing is at Attachment 2)

It was agreed that lighting was important at the intersection. Blake Smith indicated where they agreed to install a light on the northwest corner of the intersection near the Credit Union. Elizabeth Scullin added that some of the Apollo Project park proffer funding might be also used for lighting at the intersection and within the Earl M. Cunard Park. *Additionally, some of the same funding might also be used for fencing and other safety improvements in the Park.* This will require close coordination with Supervisor Angry's office.

Marianne Ramey, Property Manager of Glen Commons Apartments, commented about the present situation, without full build-out of the Ridgefield Village Retail Center, of heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic and with cars speeding through the area, especially those coming from the new neighborhood (Apollo, thru Ridgefield Village Drive Extension). She agreed a 4-way stop and crosswalk(s) are needed. She also supported lighting and fencing at the Park.

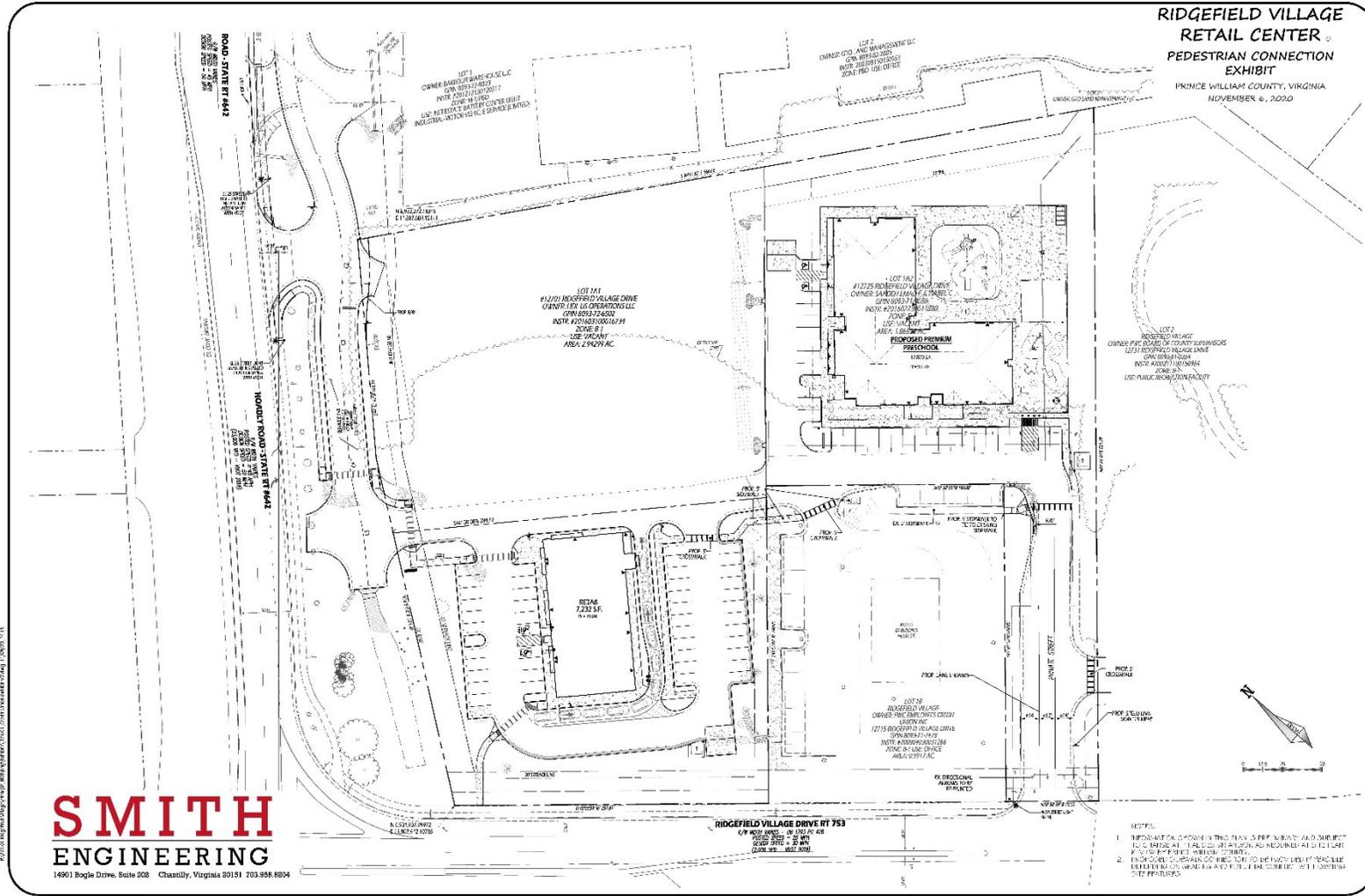
Speeding also continues to be a serious enforcement and safety problem along Pilgrims Inn Drive. Richard Weinmann agreed to conduct another speed study. It was also thought that it would be helpful to have a conversation with the PWC Police Department regarding monitoring the speed issue in that neighborhood.

SUMMARY OF FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS:

- Coordinate with VDOT to conduct a warrant study of the intersection of Ridgefield Village and Pilgrims Inn Drives
- Research/coordinate use of funds proffered for the Earl Cunard Park to install necessary fencing around the park's basketball courts as well as identified safety mitigation measures in and around the park that can be legally funded using proffer funds
- Install pedestrian connectors on the Credit Union site to guide pedestrian traffic
- Install light on northwest corner of the intersection
- Conduct a speed study on Ridgefield Village Drive and Pilgrims Inn Drive.
- Bring the PWC Police Department into the discussion with residents regarding monitoring the speed issue in these neighborhoods.
- LOCCA-PELT will keep Jim Hicks, President of the Dale City Civic Association, informed of developments.



ATTACHMENT 2 RIDGEFIELD VILLAGE RETAIL CENTER PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS



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**RIDGEFIELD VILLAGE
RETAIL CENTER
PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION
EXHIBIT**
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA
NOVEMBER 6, 2010

- NOTES:
1. INFORMATION SHOWN IN THIS PLAN IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CLIENT AND AS REQUIRED AT THE TIME OF SUBMITTAL TO THE APPLICABLE AGENCIES.
 2. PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS TO BE PROVIDED AT THE LOCATION OF THE CROSSINGS SHOWN.

The information provided herein is for conceptual purposes only and is based on existing information readily available. Detailed planning, engineering, and surveying must be completed to determine any additional site constraints. The conceptual information shown hereon is subject to change as the project proceeds through the jurisdictional entitlement processes.