

## MEETING NOTES

### York 2040 Committee

Wednesday, June 2, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.

York Hall – Board Meeting Room

301 Main Street, Yorktown, Virginia

Members Present: Mark Bellamy, Gregory “Skip” Brooks, Chad Green, Leigh Houghland, Montgoussaint “Montee” E. Jons, Michael S. King, R. Anderson Moberg, Richard Myer, Jacob Rizzio, Eugene Seiter, Cowles “Buddy” Spencer

Staff Present: Susan Kassel, Director of Planning and Development Services; Timothy Cross, AICP, Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services; Earl Anderson, AICP, Senior Planner; Amy Parker, Senior Planner; Justin Atkins, Assistant County Attorney; Gail Whittaker, Public Information Officer; Jeanne Sgroi, Management Analyst Intern; Elizabeth Mertz-Guinn

Member Absent: Sheila L. Myers

#### Call to Order

Chairman King called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Michael Giardino, Executive Director, Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport

Chairman King welcomed Mr. Giardino and stated that as was suggested at the May 5 meeting, he had been invited to speak to the Committee about the airport’s current operations and future plans. Mr. Giardino thanked Chairman King and gave a brief summary of his background, stating that he has been with the airport since 2017. He spoke about the challenges that have faced the airport in recent years with the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused a significant decline in passenger activity, although he said it should rebound now that airline travel has proven to be safe. He explained that contrary to the general public perception, the main sources of revenue for the airport are not the airlines themselves but rather car rentals and parking. Mr. Giardino stressed the importance of passenger loads, stating that the airport’s efforts are focused on filling seats, getting seats, and filling them. He displayed a diagram showing the Airport Layout Plan as it appears in the airport’s adopted master plan, explaining that the new third runway is probably not realistic but is intended to protect the airport from encroachment.

Mr. Green asked if the airport receives revenue from takeoffs and landings of Air Force One, to which Mr. Giardino responded that it does not.

Mr. Giardino spoke about the airport’s landholdings in the County, including property extending from Denbigh Boulevard to Oriana Road that Newport News Waterworks is working to acquire for watershed protection purposes. He added that the airport has recently two purchased two vacant parcels on Kentucky Drive in the County that are located in the airport’s Runway Protection Zone. Mr. Jons asked if the land acquisition is intended for future expansion or to protect the airport from encroachment. Mr. Giardino responded that the main purpose is protection of the runways and taxiways, adding that encroachment and land use compatibility are major issues.

Mr. Spencer asked about the composition of the Peninsula Airport Commission (PAC), to which Mr. Giardino responded that there are four representatives from the City of Newport News and two from Hampton, but he added that there has been a push in recent years to expand the membership to include York County, James City County, and Williamsburg. Mr. Spencer commented that the airport would be in a much stronger position if the whole Peninsula were represented on the PAC. Mr. Giardino stated that inter-jurisdictional cooperation has helped to attract new airlines in the past.

Mr. Giardino spoke about planned changes at the airport, including a rebranding effort, a name change to simply Newport News/Williamsburg Airport, and improvements to the overall airport experience. Mr. Jons inquired as to the purpose of the rebranding effort. Mr. Giardino responded that the airport has an identity problem and is not well-recognized. He added that the airport is committed to doing everything it can to persuade people, especially in the Williamsburg area, to choose Newport News/Williamsburg over Richmond International and Norfolk International.

Mr. Anderson asked if there are plans to expand the car rental and parking operations since they are the main source of revenue for the airport. Mr. Giardino responded that they won't necessarily be expanded but that the airport plans to make enhancements that will make these operations more attractive to passengers.

Chairman King thanked Mr. Giardino for speaking to the Committee. Mr. Giardino thanked the Committee for the opportunity and offered to provide additional information or come back at a future date if the Committee wishes.

#### Approval of May 5, 2021 Meeting Notes

On motion of Mr. Myer, the May 5, 2021, meeting notes were approved unanimously.

#### Presentation: Active Transportation Projects and Plans (Walkways and Bikeways)

Mr. Bellamy introduced Amy Parker, Senior Planner with the York County Planning Division, and Elizabeth Mertz-Guinn, Engineer with the York County Department of Public Works, to talk about bikeway and walkway projects in York County. He stated developing a network of walkways and bikeways is a more involved process than most people think, but that efforts that were begun years ago will be yielding tangible results in the near future. He added that they had presented this information at the previous night's Board of Supervisors meeting.

Ms. Parker spoke about bikeway projects and plans in the County from a national, regional, and local perspective. She stated that York County is part of the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail, which runs from Oregon to historic Yorktown, and that the Virginia Capital Trail, which runs from Richmond to Jamestown, is located nearby. She added that the localities in the region are working cooperatively under the leadership of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization on the development of a new bicycle trail – referred to as the "Birthplace of America Trail" – that would connect to the Virginia Capital Trail and extend all the way to Fort Monroe on the Peninsula and also to the south side of Hampton Roads.

Ms. Parker stated that in 1993, York County joined with James City County and the City of Williamsburg on the formation of the Historic Triangle Bicycle Advisory Committee (HTBAC), which is responsible for development of a Regional Bikeways Plan for the three localities and recommending revisions to the plan as part of their respective comprehensive plan updates. She provided details about two active bike projects in the County, one of which will add shoulder bike lanes on Penniman Road between Fillmore Drive and Alexander Lee Parkway as part of the reconstruction of that road segment, and the other of which will establish a shared use path on the north side of Victory Boulevard between North Bowman Terrace and Wythe Creek Road in the City of Poquoson.

Mr. Seiter asked if Victory Boulevard is going to be widened in the near future. Mr. Cross responded that there is a funded project to add a third eastbound lane between Route 17 and Hampton Highway and that there is a second project that will involve capacity enhancements, such as turn lane and intersection improvements, between Hampton Highway and Heaven's Way just east of Big Bethel Road. He added that the County tried several times to obtain state funding to widen Victory Boulevard all the way to Poquoson but was not successful.

Ms. Mertz-Guinn presented details about various sidewalk and crosswalk projects that staff is working on, including the following:

- Bypass Road sidewalk
- Hubbard Lane sidewalk between Colonial Avenue and Cobblestone
- Hampton Highway sidewalk between Autumn Way and Lake Dale Way
- Route 17 sidewalk between the Yorktown Library and Ft. Eustis Boulevard
- Old Williamsburg Road sidewalk between Woods at Yorktown apartments and Lackey Clinic
- Big Bethel Road sidewalk between Running Man Trail and Tabb Elementary School
- Penniman Road/Merrimac Trail sidewalk between Hubbard Lane and the James York Plaza shopping center
- West Queens Drive sidewalk between Queens Lake Middle School and Royal Grant Drive
- Villa Way sidewalk between Yorktown Road and the cul-de-sac
- Lakeside Drive sidewalk between Bailey Road and Carraway Terrace
- Siege Lane sidewalk between Runaway Lane and York-Warwick Drive
- Yorktown Road sidewalk between Taylor Farm Lane and Tabb High School
- Zweybrucken Road sidewalk
- Crosswalks in various locations along Hampton Highway, Bypass Road, and Kiln Creek Parkway

Mr. Myer asked if the purpose of the Hampton Highway sidewalk is to enable people to walk to the Tabb Library. Ms. Mertz-Guinn responded that indeed, in addition to connecting the two adjacent Edgewood and Woodlake Crossing subdivisions, the main purpose of the sidewalk, combined with the planned crosswalk at Long Green Boulevard, is to help people walk to the library and the YMCA.

Mr. Rizzio stated that he is impressed with the number of projects in the pipeline and asked if the County could be doing even more, given public support for more bikeways and sidewalks expressed in the various Comprehensive Plan surveys, and if so what it would take. Ms. Mertz-Guinn responded that she is always open to suggestions from citizens about locations where they would like to see a sidewalk built. She noted that several of the current projects were suggested by citizens, and that she would like to be able to do more citizen outreach.

Mr. Jons asked when the Penniman Road/Merrimac Trails are expected to be under construction. Ms. Mertz-Guinn responded that construction should be under way in about eight months.

Chairman King thanked Ms. Parker and Ms. Mertz-Guinn for their information and suggested that if Committee members have additional questions, they should email them to Mr. Cross.

#### Citizen Comments

Doug Holroyd, 103 Marina Point, stated that he and others had advocated that an area plan for the Lightfoot-Skimino area be developed and that at its April meeting, the Planning Commission had agreed to recommend that such a plan be developed following completion of the Comprehensive Plan update. He stated that he felt it should be done *prior to* completion of the Comprehensive Plan update because development in this area is an important issue that needs to be addressed now. Mr. Holroyd noted that significant concerns about development in the Lightfoot area were expressed at a recent meeting on the James City County draft Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Green asked how the Committee can do a better job of increasing citizen involvement in this process. He stated that he had expected to see more citizens at this meeting based on the interest that has been expressed to him by citizens who watched the presentation on active transportation at the previous night's Board of Supervisors meeting.

Ron Struble, 203 Shady Bluff Point, responded that he thinks there should be more follow-up to citizens' comments in order to keep them engaged. He stated that there is a lot of interest among residents in his area in potential future development in the Lightfoot area and that he feels people will come out when the Committee starts discussing land use. He stated that a lot of people are concerned about this area, not just in York but in James City County and Williamsburg as well, and he recommended that Committee members watch the meeting referred to by Mr. Holroyd at which the James City County Board of Supervisors voted to remove the Mooretown Road extension from the County's draft Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman King stated that citizen involvement is important, adding that staff forwards all comments to the Committee members for their information and consideration.

Mr. Spencer commented that people need to recognize that there is very little property left in the County that is available for development that is needed to achieve the long-range goals and objectives of the County. He added that the developer of the Kelton Station housing development on Lightfoot Road is willing to host a future meeting there if the Committee so desires.

Chairman King thanked Messrs. Holroyd and Struble for their attendance. Mr. Jons added that he has been in contact with these gentlemen for a long time and looks forward to continuing to work with them to make the County better.

#### Closing Remarks

Mr. Cross stated that the next regular meeting date falls on Wednesday, July 7.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.