



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

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July 9, 2013

Carl Cunningham
President, Rock Spring Civic Association
3417 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22207

Mr. Cunningham, 

We are in receipt of the Rock Spring Civic Association Resolution in support of changes to the current design at the intersection of Williamsburg Boulevard and North Kensington Street. It is not possible to comply with the Association's request to have changes made to the intersection. This option is not pursuable under the rules of the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program. The only option available to the Association at this time is to formally cancel the project, which must be done in writing. If NC staff does not receive a letter from the Association requesting that the project be withdrawn by July 31, 2013, staff will move forward with finalizing the design and work towards construction in the fall of 2013 or spring of 2014. As part of the typical NC process, a final design review meeting will be held with the affected residents to share the design with them prior to construction.

Department of Environmental Services (DES) Engineering staff and the Transportation Operations and Engineering (TE&O) Bureau are confident that the design at the intersection of Williamsburg Boulevard and Kensington Street is safe and will function appropriately before and after the new schools opens. Staff has reviewed the concerns contained within the resolution and has responded to each of them subsequent to the large community meeting held at the Williamsburg Middle School Auditorium on May 13, 2013. A project specific website was created which included all of the questions and answers from that meeting and also includes responses to the concerns expressed in the resolution. DES staff has also reviewed the Wells Report and does not agree with the design details and assumptions contained in that report. Staff provided information to Wells and Associates that invalidates those assumptions and has asked them to revise the report. To this date, Wells and Associates have not provided a revised report.

Staff understands that the project was scoped and designed prior to plans unveiled to build the new elementary school (NES1). The County's TE&O Bureau has reviewed the design multiple times since the plans were unveiled and confirmed that the design is appropriate for the intersection given the additional traffic volumes projected from the new school. If the Association wishes to proceed with the design, once constructed, staff will monitor the intersection before and after the new school opens to make sure it functions properly.

Sincerely,

Barbara M. Donnellan
County Manager