The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society

May 21, 2020

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District

City of Falls Church
Mayor David Tarter

SUBJECT: Fairfax/Falls Church Route 29 Improvement Recommendations

Dear Supervisor Palchik and Mayor Tarter,

The Village Society Board of Directors has reviewed the (Falls Church Sector) Route 29 Improvement Strategy documents developed by Virginia Tech dated December 2019. We whole-heartedly support the overall concepts being proposed – and more.

As in the past, we fully support a streetscape being extended on both sides of Route 29 to Graham Road that includes sidewalks, trees, and signaled crosswalks. The City is already working to extend the streetscape from Route 7 to the Maple Street intersection. We believe that an intermittent medium strip with trees. without restricting vehicle turning for business entrances, will visually improve the area immediately. That could be an early quick win. We fully support the adjustments to bus stops, benches, and crosswalks to make the area more pedestrian and transit friendly.

We support the name change for this segment of Route 29 to South Washington Street. We notice that many businesses use dual addresses as an attempt to overcome the inevitable confusion caused by the two sides of the street having different names.

We fully support a City-County effort to rationalize and improve this part of Route 29 that has suffered for more than 50 years because of the split jurisdictional authority that has been a barrier to any forward movement on improvements. We request that each jurisdiction appoint a staff liaison to work with the community to initiate a planning process.

VPIS would be happy to participate in any effort to help bring improvement to the Route 29 South business district and the residential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the VPIS Board of Director

cc: Greenway Downs Citizens Association

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