

John Marshall Drive Storm Sewer Capacity & Green Street Public Meeting
Tuesday, October 2, 2012
Williamsburg Middle School
7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Summary of Citizen Questions and Concerns

Thank you for participating in the recent public meeting. Below is a summary of the questions, responses, and comments that were discussed during the meeting. Information that is new and was not mentioned by the County during the meeting is in italics.

Storm Sewer Capacity

Question: When will the storm sewer capacity project go to construction?

Answer: The County anticipates that this project will go to construction in the summer/fall of 2013.

Question: What will be the length of the construction phase that directly impacts John Marshall Drive?

Answer: The estimated construction period is three months for the pipe that will impact the median.

Question: How is capacity measured in the storm sewer pipe?

Answer: Capacity is measured in cubic feet per second (cfs).

Question: What is the capacity of the storm sewer pipe that will be installed?

Answer: *When construction is complete, there will be two pipes that carry stormwater through this section of John Marshall – the existing pipe and the new one that will be installed. Based on calculations from a ten year storm, the two pipes will carry a combined maximum flow of approximately 300 cubic feet per second (cfs).*

Question: Where will the work take place?

Answer: The pipes will be installed with open trenches. The County will not be tunneling or working underground. When the project is complete, the pipes will be buried with catch basins and manholes visible at the land surface.

Question: Can the historical spring, located in the median, be restored as a part of the storm sewer project?

Answer: *County staff will consult with the County Historian regarding this spring.*

Green Street Project

Question: Will trees that are removed from the island be replaced? If the locust tree is removed as per the draft plan, will another tree be planted?

Answer: *The County has a tree replacement policy that is available online at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/PermitsAndInspection/Permits/TreeReplacement.aspx. Trees that are removed with a 10" or less caliper will be replaced on a one-for-one basis. Trees with a caliper greater than 10" will be replaced per the International Society of Arboriculture formula. County staff can investigate the option of planting a new, native tree in the median to replace the locust tree that is slated for removal. Trees will not be planted in the rain garden.*

Question: Has the health of the trees in the median been assessed?

Answer: The County forester has assessed the health of the two large oaks that are adjacent to the proposed rain garden area. County staff will request that the forester assess the other trees within the median.

Question: Will John Marshall Drive be re-graded as a part of this project?

Answer: No. The installation of two, new catch basins will direct water to the rain garden.

Comment: There is an issue with workers parking construction vehicles on the median. There is also a history of snow plows becoming stuck in the median during heavy snow storms.

County Response: *The County will consider incorporating reflective signs along the edge of the rain garden.*



Example reflective devices used in Montgomery County, Md. rain gardens.

Question: Does the County plan to install a fence around the median or around the rain gardens?

Answer: No.

Question: Will a curb and gutter be installed around the median or around the rain gardens?

Answer: No.

Question: Will there be a place for play in the median after the rain garden is installed?

Answer: Space will still be available under the oak trees. However, this is a road median and using this as a play area is a safety concern.

Question: Will the rain garden plants be able to tolerate road salt that is applied during the inclement winter months?

Answer: Rain garden plants selected for this project will be salt tolerant. Plants that do not survive the application of salt will be replaced with another species.

Question: There is a planted area in front of Nottingham Elementary that looks like a mess. It is suspected that it is a rain garden. Will the John Marshall rain garden have the same appearance?

Answer: The described, planted area in front of Nottingham Elementary is not a part of our stormwater program. The County will conduct quarterly maintenance on the John Marshall rain garden.

Comment: There is a spring in the median that has historical significance. The citizens are interested in bringing attention to this spring and its history.

Comment: A PEG grant has been submitted to remove the invasive plants from the median, plant natives, and make add improvements like benches. This grant should be coordinated with the proposed median rain gardens. The citizens would like to see benches or some form of seating added to the median. Seating has been included in the PEG grant.

Comment: The residents who attended the meeting are in favor of any traffic calming aspects that could be incorporated into the Green Street project. They also wish to have a sidewalk along the west side of the median. The residents suspect that because John Marshall Drive is a tertiary street, these improvements may not be possible.

County Response: *The County's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program and Neighborhood Conservation Program may be able to provide resources and information concerning these desired improvements. The County's traffic calming program is described at:*

www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/planning/ntc/EnvironmentalServicesTrafficCalming.aspx. The web site for the Neighborhood Conservation Program is:

www.arlingtonva.us/departments/CPHD/ons/CPHDOnsConservation.aspx. County staff will contact these programs regarding these interests.

Comment: Please include the PEG grant contact on the distribution list for this comment and question document.

Comment: Paul Gruber offered to provide information on this project to the John Marshall street e-mail listserv.