

Crystal City Sector Plan, Information Update

Transportation Commission Meeting -

June 24, 2010

Discussion/ General Remarks

Staff gave a brief presentation providing an information update on the planning process and the forthcoming request to the County Board, at their July meeting, to approve advertisement of public hearings to consider adoption of the Crystal City Sector Plan, General Land Use Plan amendments related to the plan, and Master Transportation Plan amendments related to the plan, for their September meeting. Feedback and comments from the commission included:

- Providing a covered ped/bike connection paralleling the airport viaduct would be beneficial, but needs to be carefully thought through in terms of the lifespan of existing bridge;
- There still appears to be too many superblocks, especially along Eads Street south of 23rd Street where there are no proposed tertiary streets/alleyways;
- The decision to maintain the Underground is a mistake, given the limiting implications it has on other aspects of the Plan;
- Consideration could be given to a second VRE Station in Crystal City, if it makes sense;
- Potential should be explored for achieving a new pedestrian connection between Crystal City and Roaches Run;
- It's important to note that areas not shown with redevelopment and any new streets as a result should have new streets in the future in the case they are subject to redevelopment;
- The streetcar needs to be at a high-enough frequency to attract riders for intra-Crystal City trips; if the streetcar doesn't achieve that frequency, another mode or service should be explored;

- At the end of the discussion, the Commission voted 7-0 on a motion to recommend advertisement of the Crystal City Sector Plan, General Land Use Plan amendments, and Master Transportation Plan amendments, with the following additional recommendations:
 1. adequate space for high speed rail stations be accommodated within the Plan;
 2. establish links to parkland on the other side of the railroad corridor (i.e., Roaches Run);
 3. add text that clarifies for those areas not presumed to redevelop and therefore are not showing need streets, new cross-streets are encouraged in those areas if and when those areas redevelop;
 4. create new cross streets between Eads Street and Jefferson Davis Highway, south of 23rd Street (and possibly other areas).