

VIRGINIA:

Design Public Hearing

July 7, 2021

6:00 p.m.

When heard virtually via:

Zoom

CRANE-SNEAD & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Crane-Snead & Associates, INC.

1 July 7, 2021

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3 MR. KLING: So far no hands are raised. We
4 have one. Patricia Gibson. I'm going to bring her on
5 in. Hi, Patricia.

6 ATTENDEE: Hi, just to get on the public
7 comment. Yes, I am asking about pedestrians crossing
8 from the bank where the wall does obscure vehicles
9 making a right-hand turn. And as the pedestrians are
10 walking from the bank to CVS their back is at the
11 traffic that's turning. So that was my concern. And
12 the other would be vehicles trying to get onto Barracks
13 Road from Meadowbrook Road when the cars block that
14 intersection despite the sign that is on the right-hand
15 side. Thank you. I really appreciate all the effort to
16 make this a safer intersection that will clear more
17 easily with the traffic. Thank you.

18 MR. KLING: Next up we have Tara Little.
19 Hi, Tara.

20 ATTENDEE: Hi, back again. I guess I would
21 just maybe make the point that I was trying to make
22 earlier that I would lobby for an attractive brick in
23 that -- in your materials. I mean, it is a gateway to
24 UVA, this corridor, and it can be truly as attractive as
25 you are rendering or it can not be very attractive at

1 all if the material is cheap and fake looking. I don't
2 know how best to explain it, but I'm lobbying for
3 good-looking material as far as the brick facade goes on
4 the wall. Thank you.

5 MR. KLING: No one else has raised their
6 hand yet so far.

7 MR. KLING: So I'll just reiterate for
8 those in attendance. This comment section is what will
9 be tracked as part of the public comment log. So if
10 anybody has any comments, good, bad, or otherwise, now
11 would be the time to provide those to the design team.
12 These are what are being analyzed and part of our
13 evaluation moving forward so we welcome any feedback
14 that people may have.

15 MR. KLING: All right. Next up we have
16 Mary Lewis.

17 ATTENDEE: Here it goes. I'm un-muted,
18 right?

19 MR. KLING: Yes. You are un-muted now.

20 ATTENDEE: All right. If you can't make a
21 left-hand turn onto Barracks from Meadowbrook, doesn't
22 that imply that there's going to be a lot more traffic
23 up Spots Wood and Blue Ridge, because right now Blue
24 Ridge is so dangerous because there's lots of blind
25 corners, it's a narrow road and there's no street

1 lights. Just a thought.

2 MR. KLING: Next we have Georgie Cutler.
3 Hi, Georgie.

4 ATTENDEE: Hi, this is actually her
5 husband, Herb, and I wanted to express concern about
6 the shared path for pedestrians and bicyclists and I
7 assume scooters count in there too, although it wasn't
8 mentioned. And I want to know how those bicycles and
9 scooters are going to be managed so that the pedestrians
10 are not threatened by the bicycle and scooter traffic.

11 MR. KLING: At this time no one else has
12 raised their hand.

13 MR. KLING: Okay. So I'll make a final
14 call for any public comments. Please use the raised
15 hand feature if you wish to do so.

16 MR. KLING: Or the star 9 if you are a
17 telephone caller and you want to make a comment. All
18 right. Next we have Martha. Hi, Martha. You have to
19 hit the un-mute button on your screen. Looks like you
20 still might be muted. She is not un-muting. So we will
21 see if we can bring her back in in a bit. Then we have
22 another comment from Georgie or her husband.

23 ATTENDEE: Yes. Can you hear me now?

24 MR. KLING: We can.

25 ATTENDEE: Okay. I couldn't tell whether

1 you heard my comments about the usage of the joint
2 pedestrian path and how you're going to manage, A, the
3 safety of the pedestrians with bicyclists on there and
4 secondly, are the scooters going to be allowed on there
5 as well, which is even more threatening to a walker.

6 MR. KLING: Thank you. We got it.

7 ATTENDEE: Okay. It wasn't clear for me.

8 MR. KLING: All right. We're going to try
9 to bring in Martha one last time. Martha, can you hear
10 us?

11 ATTENDEE: Yes, now I can hear you.

12 MR. KLING: Perfect.

13 ATTENDEE: I would also like to express
14 concern about these multiuse paths. I have a dog that I
15 walk on a leash and I walk down on the Riverview Road,
16 you know the river road down in the area down past the
17 woolen mills, and with bikes coming up behind you and
18 skate boards coming up behind you and children on
19 scooters coming up behind you -- it's really -- I'm sure
20 there must be some rules for these. But I feel that
21 we're not very good at making the rules for traffic
22 speed any better. I don't know who is going to monitor
23 the rules for multiuse paths, but it's really hard to
24 walk a dog on those paths when there's people coming up
25 behind you on bikes and whatnot.

1 So I think we really have to look at that
2 and I also feel that bikes will probably -- if they are
3 going down the hill would want to be going down when
4 they ride with traffic, which would be riding on the
5 north side of the road, and there's a terrible ditch
6 there. It is not very safe. So I'm really concerned
7 about that. And I am still very concerned about the
8 crosswalks. I think something has to be done to have at
9 least one lighted where you can push a button and
10 traffic stops on that stretch of road; whether it's at
11 Blue Ridge whether it's at Heshen, whether it's at
12 Hilltop, but there should be some way. This is still a
13 neighborhood even though I don't think you have treated
14 it like that in my opinion, but I think we should be
15 able to get across the street to go walk in the
16 neighborhood. So those are my two big concerns. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. KLING: Thank you. Up next we have
19 Crystal. Hi, Crystal.

20 ATTENDEE: Hi, can you hear me?

21 MR. KLING: We can.

22 ATTENDEE: I'm sorry. I came in a little
23 late. I was taking care of my three-year-old. So maybe
24 this has already been covered. But I just want to say
25 that I like the dual, the multiuse bike lanes. I mean,

1 ideally I'd like to see a lane on each side, a bike lane
2 on each side of the road so that maybe some of those
3 pedestrian, bike, dog walker incidents will be spread
4 out a little bit more. I'd like to say I also go to
5 River View Park and I walk on that path, again with my
6 son, and we've never really had an issue. People with
7 bikes will ring their bike bell when they are behind
8 you. I have issues with people with their dogs off
9 leash, but that's probably not what we're going to deal
10 with on this road. I get that this is a neighborhood
11 road, a road that borders a neighborhood. But I like
12 that it's actually going to be used for, like, people
13 commuting to and from work. I think that's great use of
14 this road and space alongside this road. Again, I'd
15 like bike lanes on both sides, but I don't feel like the
16 landowners in this area would be too happy with that.

17 The other thing on this that I kind of have
18 an issue with is also the slip lanes from Emmet to
19 Barracks on both sides. I feel like those are also not
20 pedestrian friendly and they're just a danger to
21 pedestrians. And if what you're trying to do here is,
22 like, help people commute safely and get across this
23 huge intersection safely, these plans are a pretty bad
24 way of doing that. And I also -- I like the small
25 islands, the pedestrian, whatever they are called, safe

1 islands to help you cross the street. It would be nice
2 if there's a tree in them because as a pedestrian it is
3 not the most pleasant thing to stand in the middle of
4 traffic in the sun on a road that is busy. But the slip
5 lanes I don't like. And I think it's great if people
6 can bike up and down this major artery into and out of
7 town. Thank you for taking my comment.

8 MR. KLING: Thank you. Currently no other
9 hands are raised, Kyle.

10 MR. KLING: All right. So just real quick
11 to Crystal's comment. This is something that we have
12 got a lot of written comments about were the slip lanes.
13 I'm not going to go into detail about them right now,
14 but I'd just like to reiterate because it is not clear
15 on the plans. Those will be stop controlled, so they're
16 not free-flowing. We will have signals at those slip
17 lanes to help control that movement.

18 All right. If there are no further
19 questions or comments at this time we'll go ahead and
20 formally end the public comment period. As I reiterated
21 earlier on, this public comment period will remain open
22 for the next two weeks. So if you review the
23 presentation and have additional comments, please feel
24 free to submit those via the website or by contacting me
25 directly either through e-mail or by giving me a call.

1 This presentation will be posted on the city's website
2 within the next couple of days as well if anybody wishes
3 to review it. Otherwise, we'll go ahead and end the
4 public comment period and I will stick around for a
5 couple of minutes to answer any additional questions
6 that individuals may have.

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HEARING CONCLUDED

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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I, JUAN ORTEGA, do hereby certify that I was the Court Reporter who took down and transcribed the proceedings of the hearing herein, when held on July 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in Richmond, Virginia.

I further certify this is a true and accurate transcript to the best of my ability to hear and understand the proceedings and other incidents of the hearing herein as set down to the best of my ability.

Given under my hand this 23rd day of July, 2021.

JUAN ORTEGA
COURT REPORTER