



GREAT FALLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Press Release – August 26, 2014

Subject: GFCA Transportation Survey – Results Released

In early 2014, the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) Transportation Committee surveyed Great Falls residents, workers, and business owners about walking, driving and riding within our town and to nearby destinations. The survey's objective was to gather information on how we might improve our ability to move between locations, i.e. to *connect*. GFCA's objective is to develop and advocate a prioritized set of initiatives that will provide transportation options that reflect the community's preferences. GFCA hopes to preserve the historic, low density, semi-rural character of Great Falls while expanding safe, healthy and attractive alternatives for transport.

The Transportation Committee drew the following key observations from the survey results, which will be available on our website in the near future (media can obtain copies on request):

Public Transportation

- The majority of respondents do not currently plan to routinely use the Metro, therefore the concept of public transportation to/from Metro stations should be put on hold for now and reexamined after the Silver Line has operated for six months to a year.
- More discussion on the question of commuter parking lots/"Park and Ride" and "Kiss and Ride" is needed, because of the value of having specific solutions for residents to evaluate.

Shared Use Paths and Trails

- A strong majority of the community expressed interest in a network of shared-use paths and trails; therefore GFCA should place greater emphasis on working with residents and local nonprofits, property owners, and businesses to expand the network of paths with the objective of connecting the community.
- Many respondents stated a preference for a "whatever is best" approach to the selection of appropriate trail and path surfaces, therefore the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan may need to be updated to allow both hard surface and soft surface paths in the three planning districts that comprise Great Falls.

A presentation of the Survey Results will be made at the GFCA Town Hall meeting, Sept 9, at the Great Falls Public Library, 7:30 p.m.

Next Steps

Over the coming year, GFCA will actively engage the community in further discussion on transportation issues. As a result of the survey, a GFCA Special Committee for Trails has now been formed to work on the shared-use trail and path question. Residents are encouraged to share their ideas and invited to participate. The Special Trails and Transportation Committees will both meet regularly during Fall 2014. Meeting dates and times will be posted on GFCA's website (www.gfca.org).

MEDIA INQUIRIES: Contact

- Bill Canis (Media Liaison) at (703) 757-6161 or billcanis.gfca@yahoo.com
- Philip Pifer (Communications Chair) at (571) 429-3320 or philpifer.gfca@gmail.com

The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) is a 501(c)4 civic organization that acts as the quasi-official town council of Great Falls, VA. Great Falls is unincorporated and, lacking a town government, the GFCA serves to work on issues and advocate the interests of town residents with county, state, and national governments. GFCA works on zoning, development, transportation, parks and environmental issues as well as any other matter concerning the town. No other organization is more respected by government authorities to speak on matters relating to Great Falls, or more sought out by government authorities for involvement in Great Falls issues, than GFCA.