

GFCFA Resolution on County Transportation Projects *Adopted 17 Oct 2017 by GFCFA Executive Board*

Whereas the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCFA) has long believed that the community of Great Falls does not receive a fair and equitable proportion of County funding for improvement projects relative to either our tax base or our population compared with other communities;

Whereas our transportation system is increasingly congested by “flow through” traffic transiting via Georgetown Pike between Maryland and Loudoun county;

Whereas the ability of residents to transit from their neighborhoods to other points in Great Falls on foot or bicycle is almost non-existent due to danger from vehicle traffic on our over crowded roads and the lack of any paths other than those same roads – resulting in more vehicle traffic, dangerous driving behavior, and safety risks for pedestrians and vehicle passengers alike;

Whereas the County has asked for public input into the prioritization of currently unfunded transportation projects; and

Whereas GFCFA is the largest civic organization in Great Falls, with over 1000 dues-paying members, and whose mission is to ‘further and promote the common good and general welfare of the people and community of Great Falls, Virginia’; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the GFCFA strongly believes that the following projects should be funded at this time:

1. **Project ID 466:** Georgetown Pike and Walker Road intersection improvements. Full funding of this project will allow safe pedestrian crossing of Walker Road and Georgetown Pike in the center of Great Falls Village, and improve safety and the flow of vehicle traffic at this most important intersection;
2. **Project ID 213:** Utterback Store Road Trail from Georgetown Pike to Forestville Elementary. Full funding of this project will allow children to walk on a safe, hard surface path from surrounding neighborhoods to the school. Fairfax County Public Schools has determined that walking and biking to schools improves children’s health, mental well-being, and educational performance as well as reduces the public expense and other negatives of bussing; and
3. **Project IDs 616 and 618:** Georgetown Pike Trails from Utterback Store Road to Walker Road (Great Falls Village). We ask for concept/preliminary design funding only at this time – to determine the ideal route and most likely cost estimates for this very important trail segment, including north side or south side siting. This segment is THE MOST IMPORTANT project toward our vision of an integrated trail system throughout Great Falls that allows people on foot or bicycle to transit from their neighborhoods to other points in our community, and would complete a trail running from Seneca Road to Great Falls Village. We do not believe that the current Fairfax County Department of Transportation construction cost estimates for these projects are accurate. There are also many open questions about the optimal route and design. Conceptual/preliminary design work would allow an optimal design to be determined and accurate construction cost estimates to be set.