



Braddock Road Comments from Friends of Accotink Creek

August 5, 2020

To: Braddock District Supervisor
Cc: Fairfax County Department of Transportation

"Begin with the premise that the automobile must accommodate the earth, rather than vice versa."

The August 3, 2020 online meeting announced the decision not to pursue the realignment of Danbury Forest Drive. We applaud this decision to leave intact the forest and floodplain of Long Branch.

We suggest even further cost reduction by simply making Danbury Forest Drive a dead end at Braddock Road.

During the meeting, a participant raised the question of impact on Accotink Creek. The response was disappointing inasmuch as it only considered the vicinity of the bridge. This entire project lies in the Accotink Creek watershed and every action will have an impact on stream health for better or worse.

Although we understand there is a funding application deadline, we must object to the unusually short period provided for public comment.

Please further consider:

- No net loss of habitat or tree cover should occur in the watershed.
- The areas of the 495 cloverleaf painstakingly replanted after the Express Lanes, should not be considered convenient equipment parking areas.
- Accotink Creek is currently the subject of a TMDL process. Include the goal to enhance the health of the waters crossed by Braddock Road, rather than further compromise them.
- Stormwater –
 - Work with DPWES Stormwater Planning Division to achieve synergy and savings to accomplish mutual goals.
 - This project provides the opportunity for incorporating stormwater retrofits to control runoff from existing pavement. Accept no excuses for foregoing this rare opportunity to correct past oversights.
 - Rather than sacrifice additional forested habitat for stormwater ponds, incorporate advanced stormwater controls within the roadway itself, and widen the concept of the corridor to find opportunities for enhanced stormwater controls outside the right of way, such as installing nearby green roofs, bioswales, and pervious paving.
- The Braddock Road project cannot be considered in isolation. Other projects small and large, such as the 495 Express Lanes and the current unfortunate [widening of I-66](#) with its brutal burial of headwaters, have the cumulative effect of degrading our irreplaceable natural environment in general and Accotink Creek in particular.
- What will we do the next time? Will we widen Braddock Road into an expressway? Let's avoid such a future dilemma by seeking lasting solutions for tomorrow today.

Friends of Accotink Creek

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