

CRYSTAL CITY CITIZEN REVIEW COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2012

On Monday, December 12, the full 19-member Council met for the last time this year, to review the transportation metrics to be tracked as part of the ongoing review of Crystal City's development under the Sector Plan adopted in September 2010. The discussion mostly involved confirming what data would be collected by the county, rather than additional discussion of effective 'performance measures.' ARCA and AHCA representatives believe such measures should include a consistent approach to traffic data collection on roads and streets leading into and out of Crystal City, including Pentagon City, ARCA and AHCA. The current 2010-11 baseline data provided at the November 9 meeting (now posted on the ARCA website) are based on tube counts which do not indicate month, day, exact location, or direction, for example, and were mostly taken at five year intervals. We need a protocol for traffic data collection that will better support CCCRC metrics. We also need a measure for transit effectiveness that would tell us whether Transportation Demand Management (TDM) is succeeding in shifting trips from autos to transit. And we need information on pass-through traffic (on Rt. 1 and S. Glebe, for example), in coordination with VDOT. Subsequent small workgroups will hopefully address these and other concerns. Some items proposed for inclusion earlier, like slug carpooling, were dropped because the county does not collect data.

There are now a number of important community services for Crystal City which are shared with AHCA and ARCA—schools, emergency medical care, fire, police, library, theater—that do not have a metric, but will be in a category of items to be monitored as development proceeds. The same is true of retail needed to make Crystal City self-contained, such as grocery, hardware, child and eldercare. The method of monitoring needs to be determined. Potential increased pressure on ARCA's and AHCA's parks are also not reflected in the metrics, both because the county does not collect significant data on park use, and because they consider that increased use would be handled under the ARCA and AHCA Neighborhood Conservation plans.

There was an extended discussion about whether it was possible to have a useful metric for air quality in the CCCRC report. Ultimately the majority decided that data from the Virginia DEQ monitor at Aurora Hills Community Center would not accurately reflect air quality directly resulting from possible increased traffic. National Airport, the Metrobus yard, West Virginia powerplants, I-395 traffic, etc. are heavy contributors, and there is currently no way to measure emissions from local CC traffic as a separate item. Nonetheless, air quality continues to be a concern of ARCA representatives.

Co-chairs Christer Ahl and Judy Freshman said they plan to have the Council's first report completed and published in the spring of 2012.