

SDC/WFCCA Joint Committee resolution 4-17-23

Reinstatement of Bull Run Post Office Road Truck Ban

WHEREAS the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations (“SDCCA”) and West Fairfax County Citizens Association (“WFCCA”) joint land use committee (the “Joint Committee”) recognizes the paramount importance of the protection of the Occoquan Watershed and upholding Fairfax County’s environmental policies, as expressed in the adopted Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS both SDCCA and WFCCA have long supported protection of residential neighborhoods from development impacts, including traffic, stormwater, noise and other detrimental effects, as well as protecting natural communities, including threatened species, and preserving contiguous wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS the Sully District and the WFCCA include many member communities and individual residents within the residential conservation (R-C) zoning district, in the western corner of Fairfax County; and

WHEREAS Bull Run Post Office Road is a dangerous and narrow two lane road, without shoulders, with poor vertical and horizontal sight distances, unsuitable for through truck traffic, with great difficulty for two trucks to pass each other in opposite directions; and

WHEREAS the through truck traffic on Bull Run Post Office Road creates conflicts with neighborhood traffic, is inconsistent with the protected residential and rural character of the area, and degrades water quality in the Occoquan, with pollutants discharged from trucks onto the road surface and into the nearby streams, potentially affecting rare plants and aquatic life such as the federally endangered dwarf wedgemussel; and

WHEREAS a through truck ban on the segment of Bull Run Post Office Road between Lee Highway and the Loudoun County line was previously recommended for approval by the Board of Supervisors in September 2000, and implemented by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for several years, but in

approximately 2015, VDOT removed the signs, required that the process be restarted, and that the truck ban be readopted; and

WHEREAS with the paving of the Loudoun County portion of Bull Run Post Office Road in 2015 providing a paved road all the way to Braddock Road, and the continued development of eastern Loudoun County, truck traffic in the area has continued to increase, impacting the Fairfax County residential communities and the protected environment; and

WHEREAS the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on September 15, 2020 voted to approve reinstatement of the truck ban, but despite the 9 month deadline in VA. CODE ANN. § 46.2-809

<https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title46.2/chapter8/section46.2-809/> for the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to act, no vote was taken on Fairfax County's request, and the truck ban was not reinstated; and

WHEREAS the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on September 13, 2022 again voted to endorse reinstatement of the truck ban, with a different alternate route; and

WHEREAS the Joint Committee recognizes that reinstatement of the truck ban will protect the nearby residential communities and wildlife in the protected R-C zoning district from negative impacts of through truck traffic; and

WHEREAS the Joint Committee supported the truck ban in 2020 and 2022 (resolution attached), and still strongly supports the reinstatement of the truck ban; and

WHEREAS VDOT has advertised that they are now accepting public comments on the reinstatement of the truck ban;

Now, therefore, in view of the foregoing, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Joint Committee **requests VDOT to reinstate the through truck ban on Bull Run Post Office Road**, between Lee Highway and the Loudoun County line, with the alternate route as proposed, forthwith;

2. The Joint Committee **requests VDOT to ensure that this time around, the CTB acts within the 9 month statutory deadline.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be communicated forthwith to the Virginia Department of Transportation and to the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Attachment (2022 Resolution)

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