



Memo - I-66 Meeting 8 August, 2019

The meeting included representatives from VDOT, Senator Marsden's office, Delegate Kaye Kory's office, and Friends of Accotink Creek. The venue of the meeting was a tour of several spots along the [I-66 Outside the Beltway project](#). The locations were those suggested by Friends of Accotink Creek, both within the Accotink Creek watershed and farther west to include areas of the project in Senator Marsden's district.

Stormwater control was less than a familiar topic for the young political aides. FACC and VDOT answered all their questions. FACC endeavored to increase their body of knowledge on the topic of stormwater control, both during construction and permanently.

Locations in the Accotink Creek watershed

[Nutley Street cloverleaf](#)

FACC:

- Lamented the recent loss of every single tree in the formerly wooded cloverleaf.
- Expressed again the hope for daylighting a portion of Hunters Branch within the cloverleaf.
- Urged that the remaining annually-mown meadows be at least partially preserved for the value of their wildflower communities (albeit among many invasives).
- Inquired on the status of the stormwater pond just northwest of Nutley cloverleaf that VDOT is taking over
- Inquired on the status of the design for the Nutley Street interchange.

VDOT:

- The proposed double traffic circle is nearing final design.
- The stormwater pond is being taken over by Fairfax County, not VDOT and will not be touched by the I-66 project.
- Made note of our preservation suggestions for consideration.

[Bushman Drive](#)

FACC:

- Pointed out the irony of cutting down the forest to install an environmental feature, as had been done here for two stormwater ponds..
- Questioned the choice to leave only the legally minimum stream bank buffer.
- Mentioned the threat to nearby [Blake Lane Park](#), which makes this loss of green space felt even more by the neighbors.

VDOT:

- Pointed out that objections from the adjacent townhome community after the clearing had altered plans to the extent of planning to plant a 10 – 12' visual barrier.

[Chain Bridge Road cloverleaf](#)

FACC:

- Vented our ire that the Mosby Woods tributary stream in the southeast quadrant is being sealed in a culvert. This is despite our understanding from our December meeting that this stream is Waters of the United States, despite the wetland protection fencing and signage that were in place, and despite the VDOT online plans that indicate open space would remain.
- Observed the irony of how the trees in the southwest quadrant were clear cut while the utility poles were spared.
- Inquired about the chance of daylighting some of the Mosby Woods tributary in the southwest quadrant when the Chain Bridge Road roadway is shifted eastward.
- Asked what is the mitigation for loss of much of the Mosby Woods tributary and other affected streams?
- Emphasized that we need to ensure the adjacent [Willow Crescent wetland](#) is preserved.
- Asked if there are more planned stream-to-culvert conversions not shown online.
- Asked about recent information we received from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality that only VDOT and the construction contractors are conducting inspections.
- Pointed out two obvious silt fence failures observable from where we stood.
- Stated that native species revegetation is a priority.
- Hoped the lessons of the unfortunate replanting experience on the [495 Express Lanes](#) would be applied along I-66.
- Inquired about the possibility to salvage a single Red Mulberry, an uncommon native species resprouting adjacent to Chain Bridge Road.

VDOT:

- Revealed that, far from any possibility of daylighting any of the remaining portion of the Mosby Woods tributary, most or all of the tributary in the southwest quadrant will also be entombed in a culvert. (This was much to the consternation of FACC representatives, who were at a loss to understand how the plans would necessitate this sacrifice and expressed despair at how this would leave the former fish population with nowhere to recolonize.)
- Indicated no further stream-to-culvert conversions were planned, beyond what had been discussed.
- Advised that mitigation is by purchase of credits, which differ by wetland or stream, and are calculated by formulas to achieve equivalent loss and replacement.
- Confirmed that most inspection is done by VDOT and contractors, but Department of Environmental Quality inspectors do appear occasionally.
- Made note of our several concerns for consideration.

It was poignant when a VDOT representative, a Monarch butterfly enthusiast, located several milkweed plants resprouting in the wasteland left by the tree removal, with Monarch eggs laid on them. Now it is a race for the caterpillars to find enough to eat among the few stunted milkweeds and metamorphose before the bulldozers return.



Locations not in Accotink Creek watershed, but in Senator Marsden's district

Route 50 cloverleaf (Difficult Run)

FACC:

- Pointed out how the stream flowing through this cloverleaf could be a model for daylighting Hunters Branch at Nutley Street.
- Wondered if the giant hole filled with stormwater was some sort of unintended consequence.

Fairfax County Parkway cloverleaf (Cub Run & Little Rocky Run)

FACC:

- Pointed out the forested condition of this cloverleaf was the former condition of the other cloverleaves which are now stripped bare.

Other

FACC:

- Inquired why the Barta Road interchange of the Fairfax County Parkway extension was never replanted, and if it could be.
- Inquired why the southeast quadrant of the 495/Braddock Road interchange is now being used for staging when the southwest area is so designated.

VDOT:

- Made note of our enquiries for later response.

The Mosby Woods tributary in the Chain Bridge Road cloverleaf – Then and Now:

