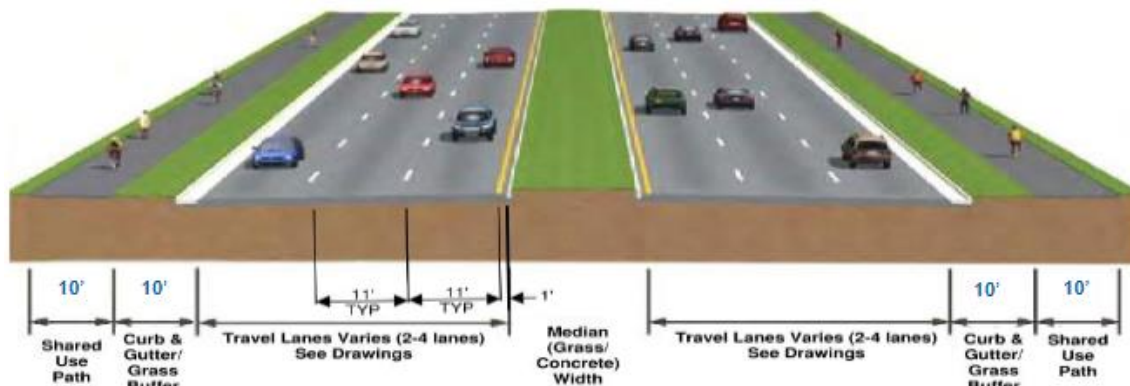


Will you miss them when they're gone?



Save the trees (and tax dollars): Reexamine the “shared use paths” proposed in the VDOT Braddock Rd Multimodal project

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Fairfax County DOT (FCDOT) are proposing to add 10-foot-wide “shared use paths” (aka sidewalks) on both sides of Braddock Rd plus an additional 10-foot-wide curb and gutter buffer, which will result in significant loss of the trees along Braddock Road.



If you are not familiar with this proposal (and proposed changes to several intersection designs along Braddock Rd), you can learn more from the VDOT project website: <https://www.virginiadot.org/BraddockMultimodal> (or search VDOT Braddock Multimodal) and the FCDOT project website (search FCDOT Braddock Multimodal).

VDOT will host a virtual public meeting on the project on November 29, 7 pm. Sign up info is on the VDOT site.

(over)

While “multi modal” is a trendy term, it should not be the reason for destroying the livability of our neighborhoods and degrading our environment. For the following reasons, the plan to construct these “shared use paths” is ill informed, not supported by data, and results in adverse environmental impacts.

Environmental Impacts

- Replacing trees with the “shared use paths” creates impervious surface areas that will increase water and sediment runoff into our Accotink watershed
- Trees and vegetation provide a noise buffer for nearby residents
- Trees and vegetation provide residents with privacy and screens unattractive traffic views
- Trees produce oxygen, capture airborne particulates, and reduce smog, all of which enhances a community’s respiratory health.
- Trees sequester carbon (CO2), reducing the overall concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere
- Trees provide drivers on Braddock Rd with a calming green wall in warmer months

Rationale for “shared use paths” is unsupported

- At the time that a citizens advisory group first recommended the plan, about 5+ years ago, the full extent of the tree loss was not known.
- VDOT and FCDOT have not provided travel demand data showing that the “shared use paths” would be used by enough walkers and bikers to justify the costs and other adverse impacts.
- The proposal does not take into account the existing sidewalks and paths people can and do use now. People are unlikely to take a longer walk to Braddock Rd to use the proposed “shared use paths” that puts them next to speeding, noisy, and polluting heavy traffic.
- No environmental impact studies seem to have been conducted that would justify the destruction of these trees.
- The cost savings from eliminating the “shared use paths” could, and should, be applied to other projects to enhance livability in our county.

What can you do?

- Attend the Virtual Public Information Meeting on Tuesday, November 29 at 7 pm.
- Give your comments to VDOT at the meeting or by December 14, 2022
- Email your opinions to your County and State elected officials

Senator David Marsden, district37@senate.virginia.gov

Delegate Vivian Watts, District 39, vwatts@erols.com

Braddock District Supervisor, James Walkinshaw, BraddockBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov

Calvin Britt, P.E. VDOT project manager, Calvin.Britt@vdot.virginia.gov

Andrew Beacher, P.E. VDOT preliminary engineering manager, Andrew.Beaucher@vdot.virginia.gov

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This analysis was provided to Friends of Accotink Creek by a concerned citizen.



[More Information](#)

