

PARKFAIRFAX TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

January 25, 2011

Dear Parkfairfax Resident:

On January 19, 2011, transportation planners from the City of Alexandria unveiled plans to redesign the Valley and Martha Custis intersection in front of the Charles Barrett Elementary School using a federal transportation grant (Safe Routes to Schools Program.) A copy of the proposal is attached.

The Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee will be hosting a community meeting to review the proposal on Thursday, February 10 from 6:00-7:30pm in the Charles Barrett Auditorium. Please plan to attend if you are interested in learning more about the proposal.

The main features of the design are to turn a portion of Valley Drive into a one-way street; square off the corner of Valley Drive and Martha Custis; narrow Valley Drive in front of the school; add sidewalks around the traffic island; and add a number of crosswalks at intersections near the school.

Parkfairfax residents may want to be aware of a few issues in the design:

- Parking will be allowed on both sides of the one-way portion of Valley Drive. The city claims that no parking spots will be lost, but it is unclear how all of the spots can be maintained under the new configuration.
- The city proposes eliminating the current stop signs on Martha Custis and Valley Drive in front of the school – and only maintain one stop sign for cars on the one-way Valley Drive segment. Drivers might have difficulty turning off the one-way segment during peak hours if there are no stop signs for the thru-traffic – and thru-traffic might not slow down sufficiently in front of the school without the stop signs. City staff said they would look into making this an all-way stop intersection, but they are reluctant to install stop signs where they are not warranted.
- The Parkfairfax community sign on the traffic island would need to be relocated.
- It is unknown whether Alexandria Fire/EMS or Alexandria Police have reviewed and agreed to this proposal.
- The city hopes to have final engineering for the project done this spring so they can go to construction in the summer and be done before school starts in the fall.

Redesigning this Y-intersection has been a top priority for the school system and the Charles Barrett PTA for a number of years because the current intersection is very wide and unsafe for pedestrians to access the school. The school system and the PTA both support the proposal.

In addition to the community meeting on February 10, the city is planning to seek approval of its proposal from the Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board on Monday, February 28, 2011, at 7:30pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. Interested residents should plan to attend this meeting and sign-up to speak on the docket item prior to the 7:30pm start of the meeting.

For more information about the proposal, you may contact the city staffer who is leading the project:

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Sincerely,

Barbara Turpyn
President, Parkfairfax Board of Directors

Greg Cota
Chair, Transportation and Land Use Committee
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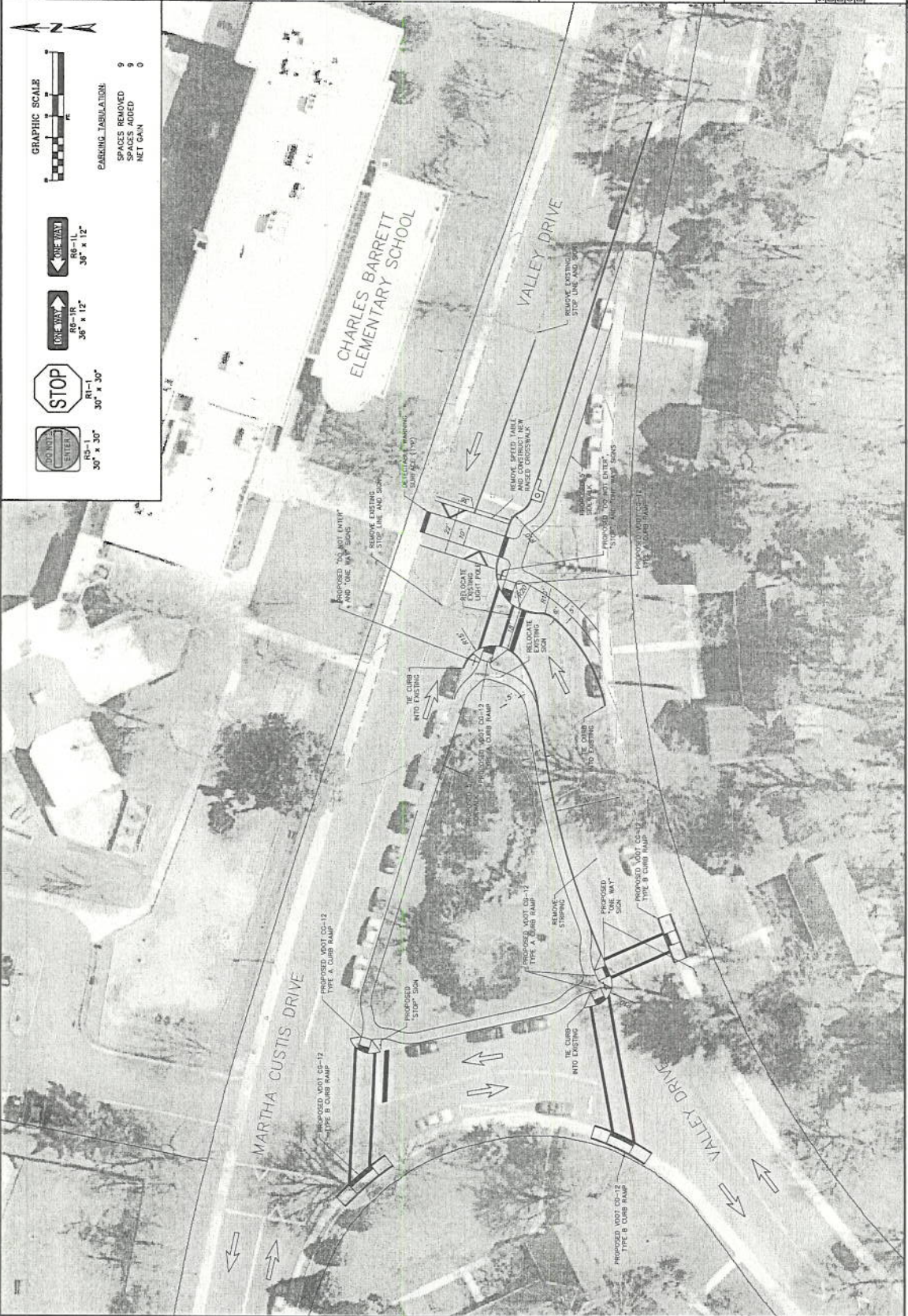
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VALLEY DR AND MARTHA CUSTIS DR
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
CONCEPT

SCALE: 1" = 20'
DRAWN BY: JAW
DESIGNED BY: JAW
CHECKED BY: OJD
DATE: 07/17/2011



11/11/11 Concept 2011 11/11/11

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