Public Hearing
February 12, 2002
6:00 P.M.

The Elkton Town Council held a Public Hearing on February 12, 2002 at 6:00 P.M., in Council Chambers with Mayor M. Lee Dearing presiding. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT

J. T. Dean
C. H. Murphy
M. S. O'Neill
T. Pence
L. Sigafoose

ABSENT

W. E. Printz

Lawrence C. Hagin, Transportation Engineer, VDOT Planning Division, Mark White, Urban Programs Engineer, VDOT, Trent Ebersole, Transportation Engineer, Parsons Transportation Group, Inc., and Richard Carey, Clerk of Council, were also present.

Mayor Dearing stated the purpose of the meeting was to hear the Virginia Department of Transportation 2010 Transportation Plan to describe the current and future transportation needs, as well as recommend improvements to the Town of Elkton's Thoroughfare System.

Larry Hagin opened the presentation by stating that VDOT has undertaken a long-range transportation planning process across the state in small urban areas. These studies have produced interim and long-range transportation recommendations, with interim being to the year 2010 and long term being to the year 2020. Two recommendations for Elkton would be presented.

Mr. Trent Ebersole stated that this is a joint effort between the Town of Elkton and VDOT, as this is the Town's plan. This plan is updated approximately every five years. Traffic counts, three years of traffic accident data, and existing conditions were compiled and two deficiencies were identified. A plan was developed and presented to the Town after traffic was projected to the years 2010 and 2020 for additional deficiencies. In 30 to 60 days, the Council will be asked to adopt this plan by resolution.

Mr. Ebersole presented recommendations for two deficiencies on Stuart Avenue (SR 340). At Stuart and Spotswood Avenues, installation of pedestrian signal heads was recommended. At Stuart Avenue and Rockingham Street, especially at the westside approach to the intersection, the STOP sign height should be increased to seven feet, measured from the bottom of the sign to the ground. Based on current conditions, no other deficiencies were projected through 2020.

Mayor Dearing complimented our local residency for working with the Town to eliminate deficiencies as they develop.

Mr. Ebersole referred all interested persons to **www.vdoturbanplans.com** where interactive maps were available.

Madeline Dixon questioned why there was no signal light at the intersection of Stuart Avenue and Rockingham Street. Mr. Ebersole referred to federal guidelines contained in the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.* There are eight warrants in the document which the federal government and VDOT consider to determine the need for a signal light. Although there is no magic number, at least one warrant is required, with more than one preferred. The sidestreets volumes are currently too low to meet the warrants.

Wake Gooden stated visibility is impaired for a left turn traveling West on Spotswood because the lanes are offset. He also requested a left turn arrow for North/South traffic on Stuart going East/West on Spotswood.

Councilman O'Neill suggested readjusting the signal lights for traffic traveling East/West on Spotswood so that each would have the right-of-way at different times.

Councilwoman Murphy would like to see the parking spaces in front of *On Eagles Wings Ministries* eliminated because they create a bottleneck when cars are parked there and make for a zigzag traffic pattern for vehicles wanting to get into the right hand lane.

Councilwoman Murphy inquired who paid the estimated costs for the recommended improvements. She was told some of the work was the Town's and probably could be paid from the urban allocation. The work on Rt. 340 would require the involvement of Don Kamora and VDOT, as Rt. 340 is VDOT maintained.

Mr. White addressed Council and told them that these two improvement projects are new and this comprehensive plan has not been approved. In 30 to 60 days, Council will be asked to approve the plan, at which time these will become potential projects. Elkton working with VDOT will make potential a reality.

As there were no further comments, the Public Hearing was adjourned.

MAYOR: M Lee D
M. Lee Dearing, Mayor

RECORDER: Richard D. Carey
Richard D. Carey, Clerk