Association Board Hosts Site Visit to Proposed Trail for County DPW&T and Elected Officials

On May 29th, 2024, several members of the Association Board conducted a site visit for members of the Planning Department of the Department of Public Works & Transportation, their engineering consultant JMT, and elected officials and staff. The group walked the areas along Roland Run from Joppa Road to L'Hirondelle Club Road where the County is proposing building a paved Bike and Pedestrian Shared-Use Trail along the stream.

Association Board members conveyed their concerns, and the concerns of many members and residents, that this proposed alignment is an unsuitable route in the efforts to connect the Jones Falls Trail (JFT) to the Torry Brown-NCR Trail for a multitude of reasons when there is a viable alternative route through the community that would connect the Lake Roland Park's Red Trail to Meadowood Park.

Board members pointed out a long list of problems and issues that constructing such a trail in this environmentally-sensitive area would pose, including the regular flooding of Roland Run and Ruxton and Circle Roads, the impact on wildlife habitat and wetlands along the stream, the impact on the property values of the residents who would abut the proposed trail, and the potential negative impact on the quality of life of the community such as parking and litter.

The visiting group saw first-hand the signs and results of the regular flooding and the narrowness of this strip of greenway that could lose a large number of canopy trees in construction; and how close the proposed alignment of this trail comes to the homes of many residents.

Board members urged the County and their engineers to re-evaluate what we believe to be the far superior alternate route linking Lake Roland and Meadowood Parks that has been put forward by the Association and the Lake Roland Nature Council, and is in the Associations 2010 and 2020 Community Plans which have been approved and added into the County's 2020 and 2030 Master Plans.

We expect that the final recommendations for the proposed alignment of the trail will be out in the next 30-60 days. Check E-News for further updates.

The association would also like to recognize and thank our elected officials for attending or sending their senior staff to our site visit to hear the concerns of the community and see the issues first hand: Councilman Izzy Patoka, Delegate Jon Cardin, Senator Shelly Hettleman, and Delegate Dana Stein.

For more information on the proposed trail alignment visit:

https://rrlraia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/NCRTrail-Public-Meeting-2-Presentation.pdf