



# CITIZENS FOR FAUQUIER COUNTY

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26 October 2009

From: CFFC Board of Directors  
To: Fauquier County Board of Supervisors  
Subject: CFFC's Position on the Proposed Route 211-to-17 Connector

Citizens for Fauquier County (CFFC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to preserve the natural, historic and agricultural resources of Fauquier County and to preserve the County's unique quality of life through education and leadership. Within our charter is a responsibility to review land use and transportation issues that could alter those unique features.

The proposed "17-211 Connector" is such an issue.

In reviewing the proposals for a "connector" between Routes 17 and 211, and the various options for Broadview Avenue "improvements," the CFFC Board of Directors started with the premise that any changes to the County's Comprehensive Plan, or any reconfiguration of Broadview Avenue, should primarily serve the interests of the people who live in Fauquier County, not "through people" who see Warrenton as a speed bump on their harried way.

There are those who use "the bear at the back door" argument that Clevengers' Corner and other potential developments necessitate a 211-to-17 connection. This is no longer the case. Current demographic information indicates that future development will locate closer to employment areas.

While much has been commented and written on the proposed Connector and associated Broadview Avenue improvements, little has been said about reducing through traffic in the Foxcroft neighborhood, which lies in between the two. CFFC views this as a correctable oversight. All three deserve equal attention.

If built along the route originally proposed, the Connector would: (1) destroy the remaining wetlands in the Warrenton area that are part of the a drainage basin feeding the Chesapeake Bay; (2) cut through the 200 acre Fenton Farm, putting unbearable pressure on its owners to discontinue its current agricultural use and sell it to developers; (3) further threaten the already imperiled water sources for Warrenton's principal reservoir (Hopefield); (4) disrupt the tranquility of Rady Park, and; (5) split the Olde Gold Cup and Silver Cup neighborhoods.

With these considerations in mind, we have arrived at the following conclusions for this transportation / land use subject:

17-211 Connector: If a new portion of the Timber Fence Parkway is to be constructed, it should be a local collector for the benefit of neighborhood residents, not a bypass for Route 211-to-Route 17 through traffic. To that end, this two-lane road should run only from Waterloo Road to Bear Wallow Road. The area where Bear Wallow and Route 17 currently meet should also be improved.

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Broadview Ave.: Redesign the intersections with Route 211 and Route 17 for the most efficient traffic passage. Improve directional and destination signage (surface, side, and lighted overhead). Implement directional signal timing during "rush hours". Review new service road options.

Foxcroft Neighborhood: Limit or discourage through traffic on Piedmont/ Blue Ridge/ Rappahannock / Norfolk during morning and afternoon rush hours with enforced 25 MPH speed limits, and traffic calming techniques (ex., "No Through Traffic / No Through Trucks" signs, speed bumps, speed dips, stop signs).

CFFC recommends implementation in the following sequence: (1st) Foxcroft Neighborhood; (2nd) Broadview Ave. and; (3rd) Timber Fence "Collector" (not "17-211 Connector"). In no case should an engineering study be initiated before substantive plans for Broadview Avenue are approved.

CFFC's information resources included VDOT sponsored briefings, County Transportation Committee Minutes, discussions with Fauquier and Culpeper County staff , discussions with County elected and appointed officials, Warrenton Police Dept., Fauquier Sheriff's Dept., Warrenton Office of Virginia State Police, VDOT's Warrenton Office, and individual County citizens' long-time resident knowledge.

Your consideration of our position in your deliberations is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted for the CFFC Board of Directors,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Charles Medvitz, President

CC: Fauquier County Planning Commission  
Fauquier County Transportation Committee