



Baylines

Newsletter of the City Council-appointed

Bayfront Advisory Commission

Members

- Kal Kassir,
Chairman
- Scott Ayers, vice
chairman
- Joseph Bovee
- Faith Christie
- Wally Damon
- Charles G. Faison,
Jr.
- Capt. Joey L.
Frantzen
- Louis R. Jones,
Councilman
- Charles R. Malbon,
Jr.
- Joseph A. Miller
- David Redmond,
Planning
Commissioner
- Stacey W. Shiflet
- Martin A. Thomas
- Robert Thornton,
Planning
Commissioner
- James L. Wood,
Councilman

Bayfront Advisory Commission meets

Thursday, July 20, 2017

(Strategic Planning meeting, 1-3 p.m.)

Regular monthly meeting, 3:30-5 p.m.

Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center

2800 Shore Drive

Tentative Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and Introductions - Kal Kassir, Chair

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Comments from Kal Kassir, Chair

Review and Approval of Minutes

STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES -- Mark Shea, Tobias Eisenlohr

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

Public Safety, Transit, Parking & Pedestrian Access- Charles Malbon

Design Review – Joseph Bovee

Communications – Scott Ayers

PRESENTATION

New Millenium Senior Living Communities – use permit

HRSD briefing on phase out of Shore Drive treatment plant

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

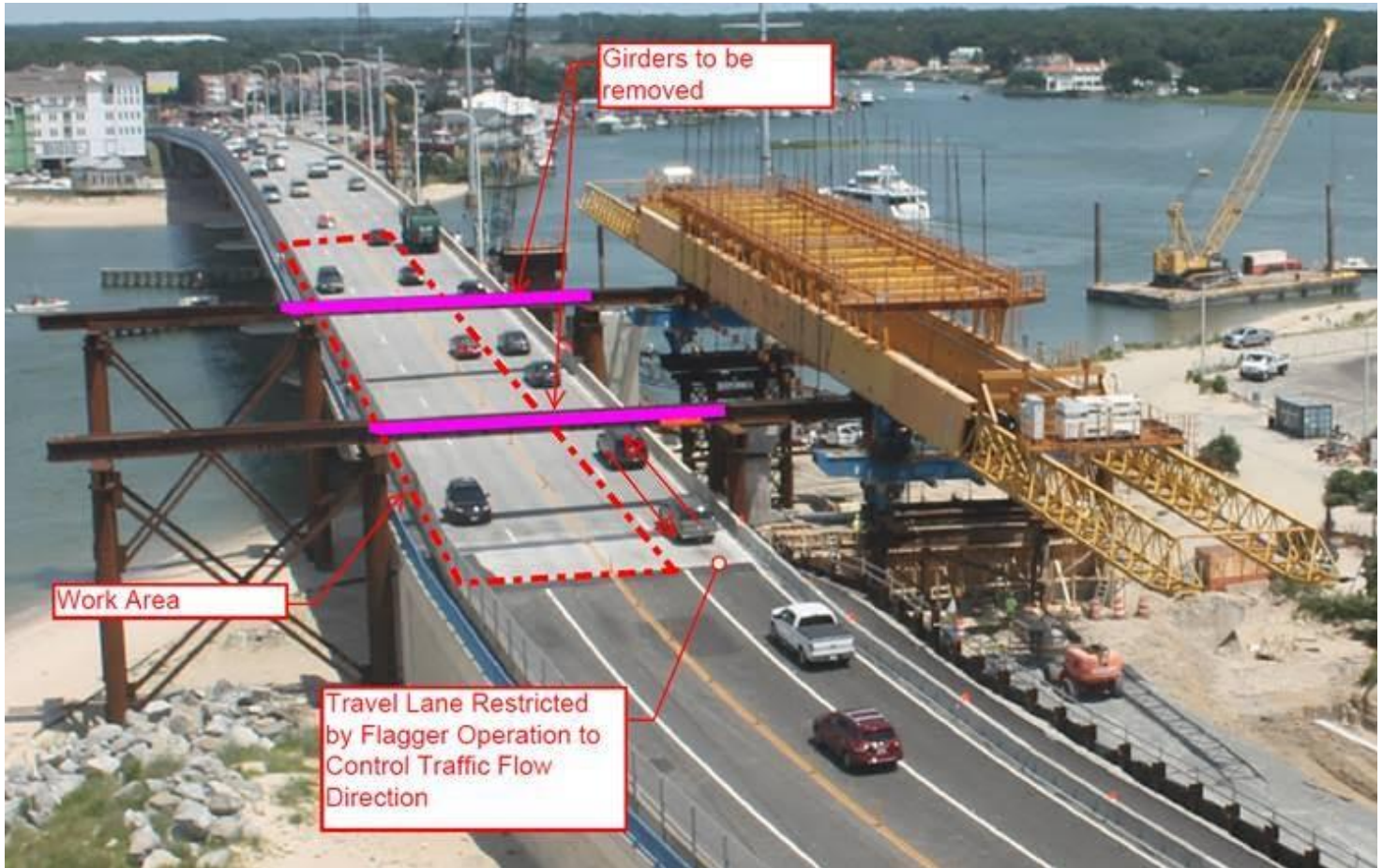
PROJECT BRIEFINGS, OPEN DISCUSSION & COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Public Comment Period

ADJOURN

Photo credit: Chris Giersch

Lesner cut to 1 lane Thursday



The Lesner Bridge will be reduced to a single lane in the wee hours of Thursday morning to allow the huge I-beams that have straddled Shore Drive for much of last month to be removed, said Christopher J. Wojtowicz, project manager for the bridge replacement.

The beams were installed to allow construction crews to winch the gantry crane from the north side of Lesner Bridge to the south side. Unlike the first two phases of this gantry crane move, the bridge will be open to traffic and a detour will not be required, Wojtowicz said.

On Thursday, July 6, from midnight to 4 a.m., Shore Drive at the bridge will be reduced to a single lane and flaggers will control alternating eastbound and westbound traffic across the bridge. Motorists should be prepared to stop on their approach to the bridge during those hours. Bridge crossing delays of up to 15 minutes should be expected and motorists may want to plan an alternate route while these two beams are removed.

In preparation for the flagger operations at midnight, Shore Drive at Lesner Bridge will be reduced to a single lane in each direction beginning at 10 p.m. Wednesday.



Photo credit: Mike Wills

Golf carts on OP Beach causing concern

What began as a low-tech way for the city to allow handicapped people to access the beach on a golf cart has exploded into a full-fledged epidemic at Ocean Park, resident Mike Wills told the Bayfront Advisory Commission.

Golf cart drivers have obtained an “accommodation letter” from the city manager’s office which, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, allows the letter-holder with certified disability to drive to and on the beach, City Manager David Hansen wrote Wills about this issue.

“Individuals must have the original reasonable accommodation letter and their driver’s license on them at all times and present such documentation for inspection upon the request of any lifeguard, city official or police officer. The letters are not transferrable or assignable to another individual,” the city manager wrote.

In his protest letter to Hansen, Wills wrote: “Though surely well intentioned, the city’s so called ‘reasonable access’ letter program was ill conceived and not properly vetted. The city has no formal rules for safe operation of motorized carts on the beach. The program has been subject to abuse, lax enforcement, is unnecessary and incompatible with our high density, family oriented, residential neighborhood.”

Commissioner Charles G. Faison Jr. agreed: “The explosion has occurred ... (and) it is out of hand.” Commissioner Faith Christie asked city staff to look into the matter. Scott Ayers, BAC vice chairman, argued that there ought to be licenses or numbered decals that tie the carts to the person driving them so laws can be enforced.

I-264 closing for July 4th crowds

Eastbound traffic on I-264 will be diverted at Parks Avenue and redirected westbound when traffic and crowds clog the Oceanfront for the July 4 fireworks. The diversion will begin at 8 p.m. Tuesday and last until 1 a.m. Wednesday or until traffic is flowing safely.

During the period, the eastbound exit for South Birdneck and the westbound exit for First Colonial will be closed. Other routes into the resort area will remain open: General Booth Blvd., Virginia Beach Blvd, Laskin Road and Shore Drive.

Police will monitor traffic to ensure emergency vehicles can move quickly and respond safely to calls for service.

Newest information on Bayfront CIP projects

Public Works Director Philip A. Davenport provided a comprehensive update to the Bayfront Advisory Commission on the millions of dollars of capital improvement projects, completed, under way or planned for the Bayfront through the year 2023.

The presentation included massive projects like the Lesner Bridge replacement and Shore Drive corridor improvement and smaller ones like bike paths, sidewalks and maintenance dredging. Included in the presentation were timetables and costs from a wide range of Bayfront projects that include beach restoration and replenishment and drainage improvements.

The entire presentation is available on both the Bayfront Advisory Commission's and the Public Works Department's web home pages. To find them, click here: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/planning/boards-commissions-committees/Pages/Bayfront-Advisory-Commission.aspx> or here <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/Documents/pw-bayfront-advisory-comm-cip-pres-6-15-17.pdf>

Marina Shores redevelopment plan revised

Marina Shores developers returned to the Bayfront Advisory Commission in June with a revised plan for redeveloping the property, reducing the number of proposed rental units by 25 percent, to 200. This reduction and reconfiguration eliminates a second proposed road to the property, which had met with city and nearby neighborhood resistance, said Bradley J. Waitzer, developer representing owner Gail Hicks.

The reduction also makes a traffic signal at Lynnhaven Drive and North Great Neck Road unnecessary until future traffic growth warrants it, he said. The new proposal would decrease traffic from that generated under the currently approved site plan, he said.

As in the previous proposal, the current dry-shelter and gas pumps would be eliminated to make way for the rental units. Wet slips and the Surf Rider restaurant would remain. The open space proposed in the earlier application would end up at 4.63 acres, Mrs. Hicks said.

The proposal next goes to the Planning Commission and then to City Council for final action.

2nd idea for vacant Shore Drive restaurant

A second location for Mermaid Winery is being proposed for the long-vacant former Foon's restaurant building on Shore Drive, the applicant told the Bayfront Advisory Commission.

This proposal also seeks a conditional use permit and is competing with an earlier application for a permit to allow a micro-brewery and tasting room on the site. The City Council decides on any conditions for a use permit.

It will be up to the property's owner to decide which business will get the lease, said Jennifer Eichert, the winery's applicant.

Mermaid, whose first location is on West 22nd Street in Norfolk's Ghent section, would house white- and red- wine production and a tasting room as well as a full-service restaurant, Eichert said. "We view this as a long-term commitment to Shore Drive," she said.

Because of the restaurant, there would be no need for food trucks, she said in response to a commissioner's question. The other applicant for this location, Vibrant Brewing Co., had proposed using food trucks to serve brewery customers.

In brief

- Public Art Virginia Beach has raised 90 percent of the \$350,000 committed for The Canoes, the sculpture under commission to Donald Lipiski, Bayfront Advisory Commission Chairman Kal Kassir reported at the June meeting. More information is available at www.vbpublicart.org. Donations may be mailed to P.O. Box 66129, Virginia Beach 23466-0226. Telephone is 757-385-0226.