



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
July 31, 2013**

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND PLANNING COMMISSION CONDUCT HISTORY MAKING RETREAT TO VISION FOR ROUTE 3 CORRIDOR

Orange County, VA – On July 27-28, 2013, the Orange County Board of Supervisors, Economic Development Authority and Planning Commission convened at the airport to hold a retreat, facilitated by A. Tyler St. Clair to start planning for the Route 3 Corridor. This historic gathering was the first of its kind in Orange and challenged the three bodies to work together to create a joint Vision for the future of Route 3 and Orange County. The result was consensus for a path towards the future to realize a greater economic engine for Orange County on the Route 3 corridor.

The most significant realization by the group was the fact that there was 90% consensus by the three Orange County bodies on the direction forward in this initiative.

S. Teel Goodwin, Orange County Board of Supervisors Chairman stated, “We hammered out a cohesive plan of what we want and the steps to get there. I could not be more satisfied that the wheels are in motion for positive momentum on an advancement that has been decades in the making.”

The group identified a Vision that will be beneficial for the entire County based on what is important to its residents. All three entities voiced in a strong way their significant commitment to achieving the Vision that is being finalized for publication in the weeks following the retreat. The basic tenants of that Vision will create a place that is aesthetically pleasing with design elements that reflects Orange County’s ideal self. It will have traditional neighborhood design that is visually stimulating which integrates the historic, cultural, recreational, and educational assets of the region.

Vice Chairman of the Economic Development Authority James Crozier said, “We recognize the need to have an orientation that includes the needs of the future which includes both foresight and flexibility. We want to create a place that is a “go to” location for commerce, recreation and culture that will be an economic asset to the entire County.”

Some features that the group identified as critical for the success of the project are a Town Center, a convention/conference center with hotel, multi-use sports and recreational complex, water impoundment, parkway parallel to Route 3, trails for bicycles, horses, and pedestrians, access to the Rapidan River for water activities and high quality business, industrial, commercial, and residential components. To achieve these elements, approaches for new zoning, design standards and corridor overlays were discussed.

The group also acknowledged the vast number of stakeholders who will be involved in this effort. Landowners in particular will be key to the success of the future of the creation and implementation of this Vision. Planning Commission Vice Chairman, Andy Hutchison asserted, “It is critical to a positive outcome to have the full support and buy in from those landowners, businesses and residents directly involved. The County, in concert with the stakeholders, will work together to make this a reality.”



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The group acknowledged that the next months and years will be a tremendous challenge, but remained committed to create a “place that is important” that feels and looks good. A place that is self contained but that is also a complete community that is appealing to the current residents of Orange County.

James White, Board of Supervisor Member surmised, “The framework that we developed will still allow for input from citizens and stakeholders. It provides for a beautiful development that is dedicated to the preservation of our natural assets.” Since a significant thrust of the Vision is a balance between preservation of natural and historic assets and economic development, it is notable that the work done was compatible with *The Gateway Study*.

The Retreat was the first time that the Board of Supervisors, Economic Development Authority and Planning Commission put pen to paper to develop this level of a plan. They determined that they could take advantage of the different impact that each body has on future development of this project to the result of a strengthened outcome. The group consensus was that the plan was wide-ranging but achievable, and that the positive collaboration was amazing for the County. We have the intent and plans that will address the impact of many of the areas of concern that County citizens have expressed and are committed to the task at hand.

For more information about the Retreat and the Route 3 Visioning process, please visit the County’s website at www.orangecountyva.gov/route3visioninginitiative. More information and communication materials will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, please contact the Orange County Administration Office at (540) 672-3313, located at 112 W. Main Street, Orange, VA 22960.



Left to right, EDA members Jim Crozier, Bob McConnell, Maggie Colby, Jack Rickett, Bill Hager; Supervisors Jim White, Teel Goodwin, Lee Frame, Grover Wilson; Planning Commissioners Andy Hutchison, George Yancey, Nigel Goodwin. Not Pictured – Shannon Abbs. (Photograph by Dan McFarland, The Freelance Star.)

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