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December 23, 2014

The Honorable Jay Fisette  
Chair, Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Wilson Boulevard Improvements

Dear Chairman Fisette and Members of the Board:

We are writing on behalf of the Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) and the Dominion Hills Civic Association (DHCA) to reaffirm our support for county plans to improve safety along Wilson Boulevard. The county's open house community meeting on November 20 provided a valuable opportunity for our residents to discuss the county's plans, and we are grateful to staff for making this possible. We would also like to reiterate suggestions that the areas along Wilson Boulevard west of N. Manchester Street and east of N. George Mason Drive continue to be considered for improvements.

Reflecting the views of our residents, the BCA and the DHCA for a number of years have expressed concern over vehicular speeding and inadequate sidewalks along Wilson Boulevard. We have called for county efforts to improve safety and access on this important road. Reducing risks near Ashlawn Elementary School is a particularly important objective for our associations.

In this regard, we welcome the county's planned demonstration project to restripe and reconfigure Wilson Boulevard between N. Frederick Street and N. Manchester Street. We appreciate that the restriping aims to reduce vehicular speeding and improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. We recognize that, if warranted, these changes to Wilson Boulevard's configuration could be reversed.

In addition, we appreciate the county's presentation of initial design options for a potential subsequent project to improve sidewalks along Wilson Boulevard.

As we look forward to the implementation of the restriping demonstration project in spring 2015, we also wish to emphasize that some concerns remain, including for those places beyond the area of the restriping project. These concerns include vehicular speeding, substandard sidewalks on Wilson west of Four Mile Run and east of N. George Mason Drive, and potential impacts to neighborhood streets near Wilson Boulevard. We ask that county staff work to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonn Lau  
President, Bluemont Civic Association  
president@bluemontcivic.org

Jeff Coughlin  
President, Dominion Hills Civic Association  
jeff.coughlin@gmail.com