



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

DATE: September 13, 2016
TO: Boards and Commissions
FROM: Streetscape Taskforce
SUBJECT: Streetscape Standards Update

Request

The Streetscape Taskforce requests your feedback on the latest draft updates to the City's streetscape standards (attached). The Streetscape Taskforce will make its recommendations to City Council in December 2016. To have adequate time to incorporate feedback into the recommendations, the Taskforce requests that you provide feedback no later than October 28, 2016.

While feedback is welcome on the entire document, the Taskforce is particularly interested in feedback on the following elements:

1. **Vision and goals:** The draft vision and goals were developed through conversations with City Council and group exercises with the Streetscape Taskforce. Do the draft vision and goals respond to the interests of your group? Do they represent the overall interests of the City? See pages 3-4.
2. **Cross Sections:** The draft cross sections were developed by reviewing standards used in other walkable communities and finding a mix of spaces that works for the local context in the City. Do the proposed cross sections provide the right mix of space for amenities, pedestrian traffic, and building uses? See pages 14 – 25
3. **Street Furniture:** The draft street furniture was selected to unify the look and feel of the different areas of the City and to update the materials described in previous policies. Does the proposed street furniture (style, color, etc.) promote the City's brand? See pages 9-11.
4. **Maintenance:** Maintenance of landscaping in commercial areas and of street trees has historically been the responsibility of the City Arborist. This is consistent with City Code Section 44-24(a) that requires all street tree work to be performed with the consent of the Arborist. To increase the funding available for streetscape maintenance, recent redevelopment projects

have agreed to maintain the streetscape in front of their properties. How should maintenance of streetscape, plantings, and trees be divided between the public and private side? See page 30.

5. **Trees:** The positioning and size of planters impacts many aspects of streetscape, including aesthetics, pedestrian passage, emergency access, and spacing of street furniture. Are the following proposals right for the City – tree spacing, planter sizes, planter edging? See pages 12-13.

Background

On May 9, 2016, the City Council established the Streetscape Taskforce and assigned it the task of recommending updates to the City streetscape standards (Charter attached).

Recognizing that many groups are stakeholders in the City's streetscape, the Taskforce draws members from many groups. The following groups are directly represented on the Taskforce: Council, Planning Commission, Architectural Advisory Board (AAB), Arts and Humanities Council (CATCH), Citizens Advisory Committee on Transportation (CACT), Economic Development Authority (EDA), Environmental Services Council (ESC), Human Services Advisory Council (HSAC), Tree Commission, Chamber of Commerce, and Village Preservation and Improvement Society (VPIS).

The Taskforce has met six times since June and has discussed many facets of streetscape design. The list of topics covered includes:

- How can streetscape design help identify and promote the City?
- What makes a good streetscape?
- How do different streetscape elements fit together?

Background materials and meeting notes are available of the Taskforce website, <http://www.fallschurchva.gov/streetscape>.

List of Attachments

1. Streetscape Taskforce Charter
2. Draft Streetscape Standards v16
3. Draft Zoning Language