

Subject: Grass Cutting on Braddock District Roads

Purpose: To frame decision within Braddock associations through Braddock District Council and to focus any actions endorsed for pursuit by BDC.

Background: VDOT is ultimately responsible for cutting the grass on state roads (the majority of roads in Braddock District and Fairfax County). Over the years the fiscal ability to fund grass mowing has eroded and the 2009 season resulted in 3 mowings of median strips along many major, but not all roads in Braddock District.

The general feeling of the Braddock District associations is that beauty of Braddock District is diminished and the safety of pedestrians and motorists jeopardized by failure to cut the grass around state roads.

The Braddock Supervisor's Office has been receiving complaints about unsightly and unsafe grass conditions as a primary complaint. BDC continues to hear similar complaints at meetings. Associations and individuals have been cutting grass in various locations within Braddock District.

Braddock Road is considered by the BDC as particularly dangerous for volunteers to work along, specially in the median. The speed and volume of traffic creates a situation where BDC has not encouraged volunteers to work.

Potential Courses of Action Raised to Help Organize the Discussion of the BDC:

a. Make VDOT do their job

- a. Campaign Focused on Local VDOT District
- b. Request State Senators and Delegates Continue to Pursue State Changes
- c. Constitutional Change through legal Challenge
- d. Referendum to Change

b. Request County assist or take over (One mowing was estimated to cost \$300,000)

- a. Request County increase number of mowings in addition to VDOT's mowings
- b. Request County Identify potential sources for funding, if option requested
- c. Request County Develop a Public – Private – Association Volunteer Program to reduce the costs
- d. Request County petition and also support State Senators & Delegates in attempt to address needed changes

c. Start a BDC Initiative to Handle Grass Cutting

- a. Create a Separate Committee & Link with Supervisors Office to assist BDC response
- b. Solicit committee members to organize
- c. Develop BDC focused response to present to BDC for adoption

- d. Seek funds to cover costs for program

d. Request Associations Adopt Portions of Roads for Grass Cutting

- a. BDC endorse local approach to grass cutting
- b. BDC maintain awareness of activities and issues thru BDC or BDC special committee

Other Considerations:

- a. Safety: Safety is the primary consideration for individuals working on roads.
- b. Safety for Pedestrians and Motorists is the next key item
- c. Beauty of Braddock District Roads
- d. Environmental Concerns
- e. Physical Condition of Roads (Maintenance and Repair Needs)

Schedule Items:

- a. November 3rd State Elections
- b. General Assembly Starts
- c. February 9th BDC Information Forum
- d. April 13th BDC Program – “Legislative Forum”
- e. Grass Cutting Season Begins in May
- f. County Budget Advertised for 2011 in February/March
- g. County Supervisors Pass 2011 County Budget

Please provide comment with additions and corrections. The more information that is available for the 12th January BDC meeting, when we plan on deciding about a course of action, the more assurance we will have of success.

Contact Bruce Wallachy at 703-607-0288 or email at bwallbdc@gmail.com.

Follow-On Points for Consideration:

- Documentation of the magnitude of public’s complaint about the state of grass maintenance for safety and appearance reasons along Braddock District roads would emphasize the importance. Additionally, it would be a useful metric to track future improvement.
- Apparently, the county has received some Federal funds with which lawnmowing equipment was included. It be informative to know whether these funds support the issue of grass cutting.
- Some communities in Northern Virginia (Burke Concervancy, Prince William for two) have well groomed roads. Knowing how the appearance of those roads is accomplished is another good way to evaluate choices for BDC.