

Cushaw Project News

10-27-06

CSX Developments:

Our meeting date with CSX has been changed to Friday, November 17, at noon at the site. A CSX representative will be coming down from Huntington, West Virginia to look over the project. We want to have a small group, so if you are interested in going, please contact me first.

The need is for a pedestrian at-grade crossing. We have been gathering info and photos on existing pedestrian at-grade crossings. To date we have photos of crossings at JMU (Harrisonburg), Emory and Henry (near Abingdon), Randolph Macon (Ashland) and the Towns of Buchanan, Elkton and Ashland.

Clearly, many at-grade pedestrian crossings exist and are heavily used. Ours should be allowed.

Virginia Action on Railroad Crossings:

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has been dragging its feet over the issue of at-grade pedestrian crossings. A recent meeting of DRPT, DCR and others produced nothing. DRPT said they have still not completed their study of rails with trails or rail crossings. Bob Munson attended. I spoke to Secretary of Natural Resources office on 10/20/06 about getting the Secretary to prod the DRPT to get the job done. I expect to hear back from his office in a week or so.

Lock 14 Access: VDOT Permit In Hand

We have the VDOT permit to develop the intersection at Route 501. The required letter of credit will not be used unless the project construction actually starts.

The estimate on construction will vary depending on how much volunteer labor we can obtain for clearing, bulldozer work and engineering, and how much donated materials we can get for fill material and other such items. If you think you can help with volunteer labor or materials (once construction starts), please let me know.

Support Grows:

Our newest state representative to support the project is Sen. Frank Ruff. I attended a Friends of the Appomattox River meeting on Thursday, October 26 and made a talk to that group. They will vote on doing a support letter next month, but I am confident we will get one.

Lock 14 Clean Up:

The Cushaw Project team cleared brush so we could get a decent photo of the lock wall. We have uncovered only about 10 percent of the wall, but it looks really great. More work needs to be done. Contact me if you can handle a shovel, hoe or machete.

How to Help:

Contact Bill Tanger: Email address: tanger@mediavisionva.com. Home: 540-366-2228. Work: 540-777-1020.

Footnotes: We have not received any letter of support from Back Country Sports or Blue Ridge Fly Fishers in Roanoke. If you go there, ask them why not?