

10-B

MOTION:

**January 4, 2005
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 05-**

SECOND:

**RE: REQUEST THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S
COMMISSIONER TO INSTALL "WATCH FOR CHILDREN" SIGNS
ON RIVER FOREST DRIVE - COLES MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, Section 33.1-210.2 of the Code of Virginia provides for the installation and maintenance of signs alerting motorists that children may be playing nearby; and

WHEREAS, River Forest Drive is a secondary road located within a residential area and, therefore, meets the criteria established by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the installation of "Watch for Children" signs; and

WHEREAS, Prince William County allocations for secondary system construction will be used to fund the installation of the signs and secondary system maintenance allocations will be used to maintain the signs; and

WHEREAS, the signs are proposed to be installed on River Forest Drive as indicated on the attached sketch; and

WHEREAS, VDOT makes the final determination on the exact number and location of "Watch for Children" signs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby request VDOT's Commissioner to install "Watch for Children" signs on River Forest Drive in the Coles Magisterial District, and in accordance with Section 33.1-210.2 of the Code of Virginia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the signs will be funded by County allocations for secondary system construction and that the signs will be installed as indicated on the attached sketch.

January 4, 2005
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 05-
Page Two

ATTACHMENT: Watch for Children Design Sketch for River Forest Drive

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

For Information:

Director, Public Works Department

Transportation Division Chief

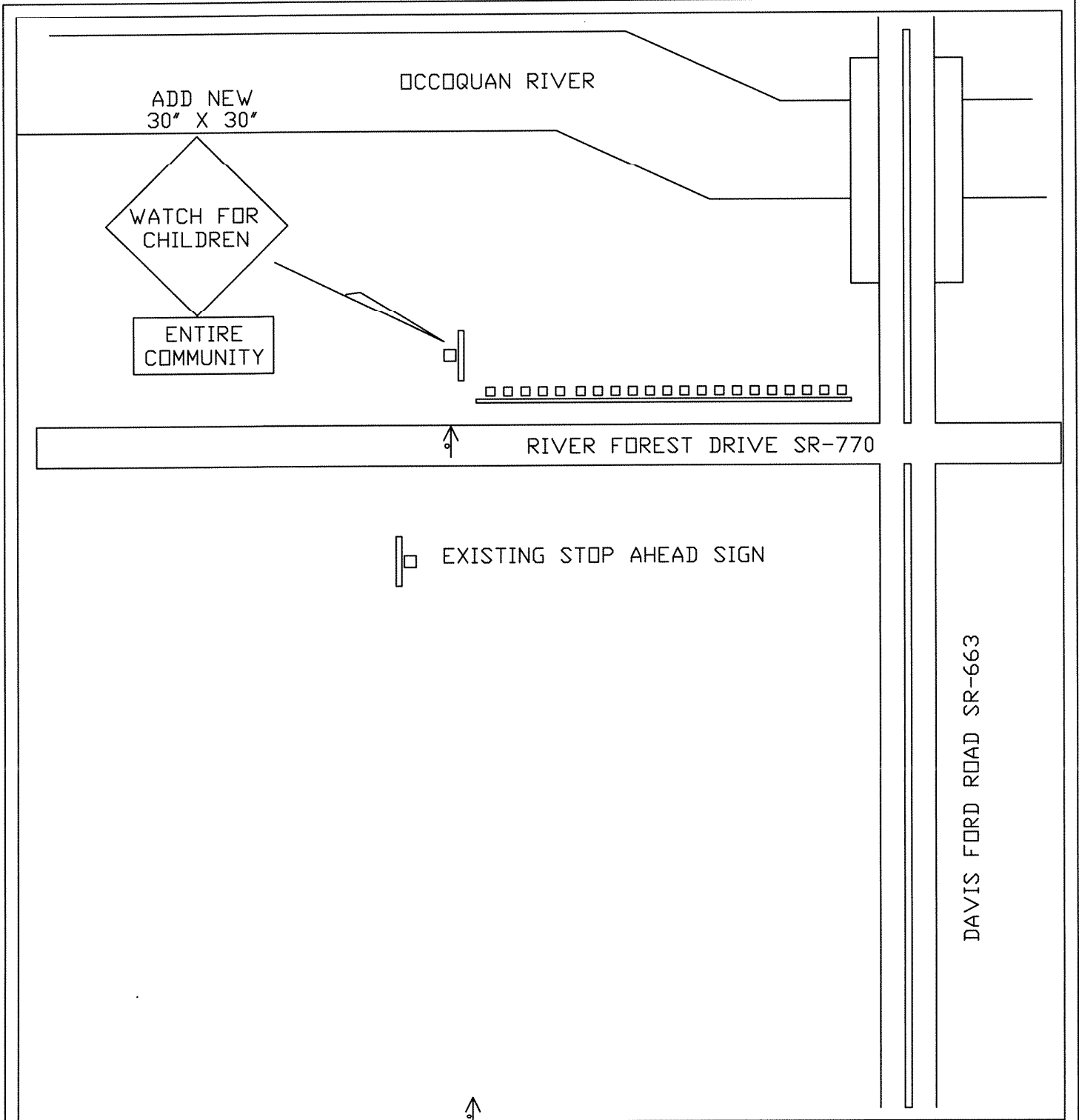
Helen Cuervo, VDOT

Derek Schuler, VDOT

CERTIFIED COPY

Clerk to the Board

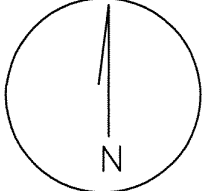
ATTACHMENT - WATCH FOR CHILDREN - RIVER FOREST DRIVE - COLES DISTRICT



LOCATION MARKED AT END OF GUARDRAIL



Prince William County
Proposed Sign Location
File\SMS\C\WFCRiver Forest



To: VDOT
From: Steve Stevens
PW ADC Map 14
Grid G-3



Craig S. Gerhart
County Executive

COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT
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BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS
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Maureen S. Caddigan, Vice Chairman
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Corey A. Stewart
John T. Stirrup

November 19, 2004

TO: Board of County Supervisors

FROM: Robert W. Wilson
Director of Public Works *[Signature]*

THRU: Craig S. Gerhart
County Executive

RE: Request the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT)
Commissioner to Install "Watch for Children" Signs on River Forest Drive
in the **Coles Magisterial District**

I. Background on the subject in chronological order is:

- A. Sign Legislation - On March 8, 1997, the Virginia General Assembly amended Section 33.1-210.2 of the Code of Virginia. It provides for the installation and maintenance of signs alerting motorists of children playing.
- B. Watch for Children Process - On July 1, 1997, the law went into effect. VDOT established the following process for having these signs installed:
1. County Request - A request must be submitted by the County to the local VDOT resident engineer in Manassas. The requests must be in the form of a resolution for submission to the Transportation Commissioner.
 2. Source of Funding - The resolution must include a source of funding from one of three sources:
 - a. Secondary Road Allocations - Secondary road allocations available to the County may fund the signs.
 - b. Contributions or Grants - Contributions or grants made to the County may fund the signs.

- c. Other Sources - Any other source as provided by the County may fund the signs.
- C. Sign Location - The location of the signs must be included in the resolution. However, VDOT reviews all signing plans and makes the final determination on the location and number of signs.
- D. Qualifying Criteria - VDOT also established initial criteria for determining if a road qualifies for the signs. “Watch for Children” signs should be installed only on secondary roads within residential areas. Any requests to install the signs on primary roads will be sent to the state traffic engineer for review.

II. Current Situation is:

- A. “Watch for Children” Sign Request - A request was made for “Watch for Children” signs on River Forest Drive in the Coles Magisterial District.
- B. Public Works’ Evaluation – Public Works reviewed the location and determined that River Forest Drive meets the qualifying criteria established by VDOT.
- C. Board Action Requested – The Board is requested to approve a request to VDOT for the installation of “Watch for Children” signs on River Forest Drive.

III. Issues in order of importance are:

- A. Public Safety - Will public safety improve with the installation of the sign?
- B. Fiscal Impact - Will County funds be used to install the sign? Who will pay for maintaining the sign?
- C. Legal - What sections of the Virginia Code apply to the installation of the sign?
- D. Service Level/Policy Issue - Does River Forest Drive meet the criteria established by VDOT? How does installing the signs apply to the Transportation Strategic Goal?

- E. Timing - How long will it take VDOT to either approve or deny the request?

IV. Alternatives in order of feasibility are:

- A. Request VDOT's Commissioner to install "Watch for Children" signs on River Forest Drive in the Coles Magisterial District.
1. Public Safety - Public safety may improve as motorists are alerted to the presence of children on River Forest Drive.
 2. Fiscal Impact - There will be no cost to the County. County secondary system construction allocations will pay for the sign. Maintenance of the sign will be paid from secondary system maintenance allocations.
 3. Legal - The signs will be installed in accordance with Section 33.1-210.2 of the Code of Virginia.
 4. Service Level/Policy Issue – River Forest Drive qualifies as a secondary road located within a residential neighborhood. The Transportation Strategic Goal will be pursued since installing the sign will improve safety.
 5. Timing - After receiving an approved resolution from the County, VDOT will make a final determination on the installation of the sign within thirty days.
- B. Take No Action.
1. Public Safety - The safety of children on River Forest Drive will not be improved.
 2. Fiscal Impact – Does not apply.
 3. Legal – Does not apply.
 4. Service Level/Policy Issue - The Transportation Strategic Goal will not be pursued on River Forest Drive.

Watch for Children – River Forest Drive
November 19, 2004
Page 4

5. Timing – Does not apply.

V. **Recommendation** is that the Board of County Supervisors concur with Alternative A and approve the attached Resolution.

Staff Contact - Tom Blaser, 792-6825

SMS/MD/Resolutions 2004/1-4-05/River Forest Drive