

## Questions and Answers from March 22, 2018 Design Review Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Street S NCAC Project

1. **Q:** Why is this concept design called a “30 percent” design on the drawing? What does that mean?  
**A:** The “30 percent” is standard county terminology for a design at the concept stage. It’s an approximation of how far along the design is in the overall process.
2. **Q:** If the project is approved, how long before construction begins?  
**A:** Based on similar projects, it will be two to three years before there is a “shovel in the ground.”
3. **Q:** Once construction begins, how long before the project is complete?  
**A:** From six to nine months, if there are no contractor delays.
4. **Q:** Will streets and driveways be blocked during construction?  
**A:** Streets will always be open to local traffic. They will be open to all traffic after the work day. Driveway apron installations take 3-5 days, but that is the only time driveways won’t be accessible.
5. **Q:** If there isn’t a driveway in place, will an apron be installed?  
**A:** No. If a driveway is planned to be added prior to the start of construction, the homeowner should inform the project team before the next (90 percent) design review, so the apron can be incorporated into the planning. . But the driveway must be in place for the apron to be installed.
6. **Q:** If I am thinking of redoing my driveway, should I do it before or after the new apron is installed?  
**A:** You should wait until the new apron is installed to make sure the redone driveway aligns correctly with the apron.
7. **Q:** Is it possible to have new curbs and gutters only, with no sidewalks? Some residents prefer no sidewalks because they will take up space currently used for front yards and the roadway and aren’t necessary for pedestrian safety in this quiet neighborhood.  
**A:** County policy requires a sidewalk on at least one side of the street when new curbs and gutters are installed. This requirement improves walkability and safety in Arlington neighborhoods. It is not possible to get an exception to this sidewalk requirement.
8. **Q:** What is the county’s right-of-way on 4<sup>th</sup> Street S?  
**A:** The county’s right-of-way is 40’. This will be used for one 4’ sidewalk, two 4’ grass strips, two 7’ parking lanes, and a 14’ travel lane.
9. **Q:** How wide will the streets be once the sidewalks, curbs and gutters are installed?  
**A:** The width from curb to curb will be 28’. On each side of the street, 7’ will be allowed for parking. That leaves a 14’ wide travel lane.
10. **Q:** Will the roadway be wide enough for large vehicles such as school buses, snow plows and emergency vehicles?  
**A:** Yes, the roadway will be wide enough. Also, the turning radius at corners is designed to accommodate a turning city bus.
11. **Q:** With only a 14’ travel lane, which is narrower than the current travel lane in some places, won’t this increase the chance of cars being sideswiped?  
**A:** The travel lane will require one car to yield if another is approaching, so drivers will have to be cautious in this situation.
12. **Q:** How wide will the sidewalks be?  
**A:** The sidewalks will be 4’ wide and will be only on the north side of the street.
13. **Q:** How far will the new sidewalks, curbs and gutters extend around the corner of each block?  
**A:** They will extend 25’ beyond the corner.
14. **Q:** What are the “grass strips” shown on the design?  
**A:** These are 4’ strips of county property on both sides of the street, adjacent to the curbs.

15. **Q:** You mentioned the possibility of a new line to connect sump pumps to the storm drains. If that is installed, who is responsible for extending sump lines to the connection points on the new line?  
**A:** Homeowners will be responsible for extending their sump pump lines to the connection points on the new line, which will be at or near the right-of-way line.
16. **Q:** If there is a fence on a property line, will it have to be moved?  
**A:** If it's right on the property line, it probably won't need to be moved. If it encroaches on the county's property (the public right of way) and is in an area that will be impacted by construction, it will need to be moved and reinstalled. The county will do this during the project at no expense to the property owner.
17. **Q:** Will any trees, shrubs or other plantings need to be moved?  
**A:** No tree removals have been noted in the concept design. If any shrub plantings must be removed, the county will replace them at no expense to the homeowner.
18. **Q:** 4th Street S has problems with drivers exceeding the speed limit on their way to Glencarlyn Park and the dog park. Can speed humps be installed to slow down traffic?  
**A:** Arlington County is no longer installing speed humps. It has been a contentious issue, with strong opinions for and against, so speed humps are no longer an option.
19. **Q:** We also have a problem with drivers not stopping at existing stop signs. Also, can a stop sign be installed at 4th Street S and S Illinois St?  
**A:** The proposed project includes roadway striping at intersections where there are stop signs, to reinforce to drivers that they need to stop. A stop sign can be requested at any time by the citizens association. It is a separate process from the NC project.