

**TOWN OF HERNDON, VIRGINIA
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
AUGUST 26, 2019
HERNDON COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUILDING
765 LYNN STREET
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. June 10, 2019, Planning Commission Work Session Draft Minutes
3. June 24, 2019, Planning Commission Public Hearing Draft Minutes

COMMENTS

4. Comments from the Staff Members
5. Comments from the Commissioners
6. Comments from the Audience

PUBLIC HEARING

7. **Elden Street Sidewalk Improvements (Center to School Street)**, to consider a resolution recommending authorization of an application to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for VDOT – Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding for federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022 and endorsement of the “Elden Street Sidewalk Improvements” project. This project is intended to improve pedestrian safety, accessibility, and overall walkability along a road segment serving as a vital pedestrian connection between downtown and the south Elden commercial corridor. It involves redesigning and reconstructing the streetscape on the south side of Elden Street between Center Street to the east and near School Street to the west. In accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by resolution be received from the local government in order for the Virginia Department of Transportation to consider a new Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside project in the Town of Herndon.

ADJOURNMENT

Future Planning Commission Meetings:

September 9, 2019	Planning Commission work session	7:00 p.m.
September 23, 2019	Planning Commission public hearing	7:00 p.m.



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Jonas & Members of the Planning Commission

From: Michael Wallick, AICP, Transportation Planner

MW

Date: August 26, 2019

Subject: Central Elden Walkability Improvements

This memorandum serves as an addendum to the Planning Commission staff report, dated August 12, 2019.

The official title of the project has changed since the work session to better represent the scope of the project. The earlier title, Elden Street Sidewalk Improvements project, did not effectively demonstrate that the project involves more than just improvements to the sidewalk.

Please note that the attached project sketches have been revised. The street section has been corrected to accurately portray the existing right-of-way width. The streetscape perspective now shows a split landscape strip on both sides of the sidewalk to reduce the severity of the sidewalk curve around the poles. The perspective also indicates a different sidewalk surface treatment where it curves around the poles.

The Planning Commission raised the following questions at the August 12, 2019 work session. The staff has attempted to address these questions in the following paragraphs.

Why was this portion of Elden Street chosen for TA-Set Aside application and not another street/sidewalk segment in town?

a) When drafting the project narrative for the preliminary grant application, the staff stressed the existing unsafe conditions, the proximity to local schools and use by middle school and elementary school students. In addition to these factors, but also important, is the connection this segment of Elden Street provides to regional trails and two of the town's activity centers; downtown and south Elden Street. While several other streets in Town need pedestrian improvements and pose challenges for pedestrians, few carry the same volume of vehicle traffic seen along this segment of Elden Street. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) and staff found this project to be a high priority due to the combination of traffic volume, significant pedestrian safety issues, the presence of school children and the nearby pedestrian generators. Furthermore, these factors combine to make this project a more compelling contender in the competition for TA Set Aside funding. Justification for this project is reflected in WHEREAS #3, #4, #5, and #6 of the proposed draft Planning Commission resolution. It should be noted that pedestrian improvements are planned at other locations within town through the Capital Improvement Program.

Can the sidewalk be elevated across driveway curb cuts along Elden Street?

b) Standard residential driveway aprons will be utilized in the design of this project. Residential driveway aprons rise to sidewalk level to create a uniform pedestrian walkway. Staff does not believe raised crosswalks at public street intersections are appropriate for this project. The principal public intersection at Grace Street is controlled by traffic and pedestrian signals and marked crosswalks. Those devices allow for safe crossings. The other intersecting roads are low volume and low speed residential local right-of-ways. Adding at-grade marked crosswalks will improve the safety of pedestrian crossings at those intersections. Raising the crosswalks would impact vehicle mobility and operability.

Does the western terminus of the project interfere with the area where eastbound lanes reduce from 2 lanes to 1 lane on Elden Street?

c) The project is east of the area where eastbound Elden Street narrows from 2 travel lanes to 1 travel lane although near the transition. This transition will be considered during the engineering phase of the project to ensure safety

Can the sidewalk contain a treatment to ensure that sight impaired pedestrians do not have issues with maneuvering around utility poles?

d) Appropriate surface treatments will be selected during the engineering of the project to ensure that the sidewalk is ADA compliant and meets best practices. Special surface treatments, to include changes in texture and visual contrast, will be incorporated as appropriate.

Can the project include improvements such as undergrounding of utilities, bio-retention, and installation of conduit?

e) At this time, the project scope is limited by the availability of resources. Staff will evaluate, as the project progresses into design and engineering, what ways the project scope can or should be modified to possibly include installation of conduit, undergrounding of utilities, or stormwater management bio-retention.

Attachments:

1. Revised Resolution
2. Revised Project Sketches

TOWN OF HERNDON, VIRGINIA

PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION

August 26, 2019

Resolution - Recommending authorization of an application to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for VDOT – Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding for federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022 and recommending endorsement of the “Central Elden Walkability Improvements Project”

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Town Council adopted the 2030 Comprehensive Plan which guides the town to *facilitate alternative modes of transportation within the town and provide safe streets that are friendly to pedestrians and bicyclists and continue to integrate pedestrian and bicycle facilities with the street and transit network*; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council’s adopted 2035 Vision Statement expresses that *Residents walk, cycle, drive, or use public transit to their jobs, restaurants, and cultural events and Through thoughtful planning, the town has a network of sidewalks, trails, streets and connections to public transportation that provides residents the opportunity for one-car or no-car living*; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Herndon Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) identified the Central Elden Walkability Improvements Project as a top priority within the PBAC recommended draft Town of Herndon Pedestrian Plan; and

WHEREAS, the current conditions of the streetscape within the project area are unsafe, uncomfortable, inadequate, and non ADA-compliant; and

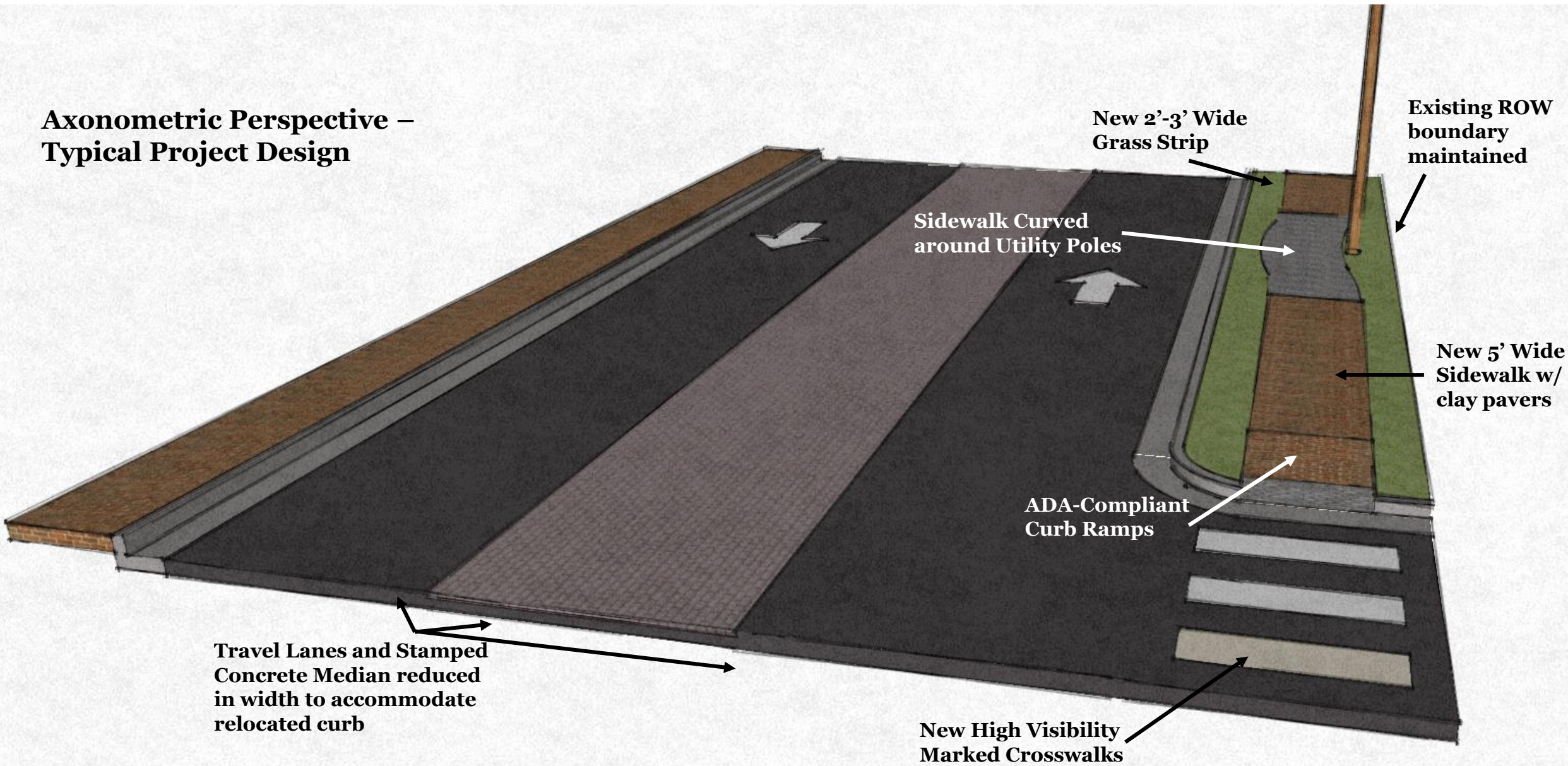
WHEREAS, the project area is within one block of two schools and the sidewalk to be improved is frequently used by school children; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements would enhance pedestrian service levels, provide an important connection between south Elden Street’s commercial corridor and downtown Herndon, and create a safe walking environment for all users.

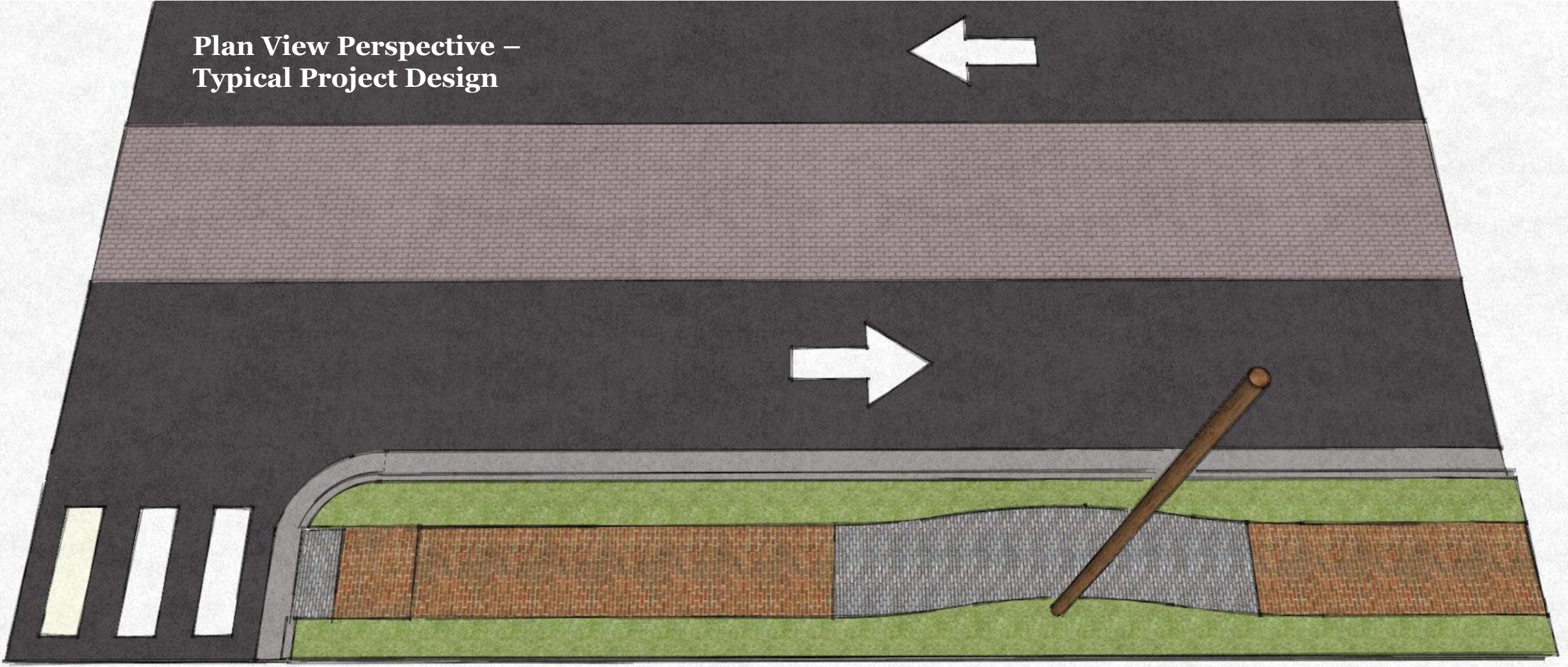
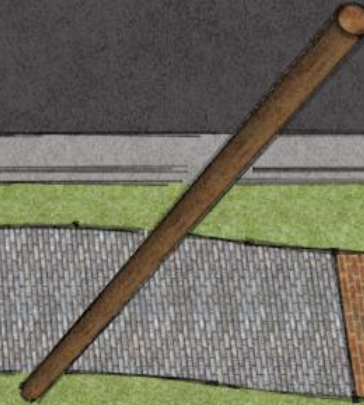
BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Commission for the Town of Herndon that:

1. the Planning Commission hereby recommends the Town Council authorize the TA Set-Aside funding application in accordance with the Commonwealth Transportation Board construction allocation procedures; and
2. the Planning Commission hereby recommends the Town Council endorse the Central Elden Walkability Improvements Project.

**Axonometric Perspective –
Typical Project Design**



**Plan View Perspective –
Typical Project Design**



Typical Street Section

