



Roanoke County 200 Plan: 2021 Community Meeting Summary

Catawba and Masons Cove

Meeting: Masons Cove Elementary School - Thursday, September 9, 2021

Attendee Count: 50

Staff present:

Planning	Long Range	Transportation	Zoning	Economic Dev.
Philip Thompson Cecelia Monnin	Bailey Howard-DuBois Alex Jones	Megan Cronise Isaac Henry Will Crawford Paula Benke	Becky James Alyssa Dunbar	Marshall Stanley

Land Use

Meeting Exercise: Place post-it note comments on the map.

1. Where are current issues with land uses?
2. Where are there zoning enforcement issues?
3. What types of development are desired?
4. Where should new development go?
5. Where should redevelopment happen?

Meeting Exercise Comments:

- Concerns about new brewery on Blacksburg Road (appropriateness, traffic, noise).
- Review Village Center Future Land Use designation in Masons Cove CPA – designation not needed.
- Keep area rural/country - leave as is - low density.
- Encourage placemaking around Route 311 Roundabout – make it a designed/planned node with appropriate land uses. Make it a central focal point other than convenience commercial. Make it the gateway to the Catawba Valley.
- Keep Catawba Agricultural and Conservation.
- Vacant building across from fire department is old and unattractive.

Community Facilities

Meeting Exercise: Tell us about the facilities that you use.

Leave a suggestion or comment about issues or needs for Catawba's and Masons Cove's community facilities.

Meeting Exercise Comments:

- Have Roanoke County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism programs at the Catawba Center, such as yoga classes.
- More reliable restrooms and water at Whispering Pines Park.
- There is a conflict between bikes, hikers, and horses using Timberview Road and nearby parks - causing traffic jams for residents.



- Would be nice for Masons Cove to receive a new park or significantly enhance Whispering Pines Park (pine tree maintenance needs to be looked at by PRT).
- Keep Masons Cove and Catawba Fire & Rescue facilities open if a new Roanoke County Fire & Rescue facility is built closer to Route 419/Interstate 81.
- Safety signs and/or a crosswalk should be added at Appalachian Trail crossings, especially on Blacksburg Road. Is there an opportunity for a visible trailhead and/or parking for the AT at the Blacksburg Road crossing?
- Roanoke County Public Library needs to better serve the area with more options such as a storefront facility in Masons Cove or Catawba (or utilize the MCES Library) or new Little Free Libraries. Add a Roanoke County Book Mobile with weekly pickup options at a Masons Cove/Catawba school or park.
- Recycling bins or drop off at or near the Route 419/311 intersection - BP Station or Roanoke County Kessler Mill GSPRT facility seems like good spaces.
- Internet café or library hotspots at the Catawba Center or somewhere else in the Catawba Village.
- More funding for permanent staffing at Catawba Fire Station and more marketing for volunteering at the station.
- A new Roanoke Outdoors/Roanoke County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism/Virginia's Blue Ridge kiosk or welcome center at the new Route 419/311 intersection - advertise it to Interstate 81 travelers.

General Comments:

- Senior citizen services needed; work with Social Services to provide and market more options helping the elderly read/complete forms, mow lawns, etc.
- Water & Sewer expansion needed.
- Shentel at Masons Cove Elementary School. Expansion of broadband needed in the CPA.
- Need more parks in CPA – especially picnic shelters. One in Bennett Springs – need some in other areas.
- How are funds being used for infrastructure?
- How can wifi service be provided to under- or un-serviced areas?
- Wifi needed on Timberview Road.
- AEP is not available on Keffer Road to the east of Catawba Hospital. Electric is provided by Craig-Botetourt co-op and is extremely expensive in fees. County water is not available in this area. Want future plans for a waterline.
- Want water and sewer to remain as well & septic. No public water or sewer.
- Additional rescue squad needed to service area equally.
- Want to see public sewer system where public water exists.
- Require internet and fiber (underground) in all new subdivisions. No internet or cell service when it storms – causes problems if there is an emergency.
- Need more police patrols, faster response times.
- Improve emergency response times closer to the Montgomery County line.
- Service vehicles for Smith Gap Landfill need to use appropriate roads.
- Develop recreational plans at Hinchee Park – want to see the park and trails improved.



- Internet completed on Newport Road – questioning project status and internet availability.
- Want access to public water & public sewer – wells are drying up due to low water table.
- Internet service is poor in the area.
- Need library at Masons Cove with internet access.

Transportation

Meeting Exercise: What are the transportation needs in this area?

Leave a comment about: Road safety issues, pedestrian, bicycle and/or transit needs.

Meeting Exercise Comments:

Route 311

- 311 southbound approaching Absalom Smith Road – something to slow traffic there?
- Route 311 – speed is too fast between Carvins Cove Road and Bradshaw Road. Reduce speed limit or add turn lanes?
- Route 311 at Bradshaw Road – reduce speed or add turn lane for people turning onto Bradshaw Road. Huge safety issue!
- Cyclists shouldn't ride side-by-side on Route 311.
- Improve Traffic along 311.
- There are parking issues on Route 311 at AT crossing.
- Additional parking lot is needed at McAfee Knob.
- Move 40 mph speed limit signs (posted at 311 & Old Catawba - not sure which road this is supposed to refer to)
- End school zone side (posted on 311 between Oakey Dolin and Sagewood Cir, not sure what exactly this means or where it is supposed to refer to)
- Speed limit on Route 311 should be posted.

Route 311/419 Roundabout

- 4-Lane 419 and Thompson Mem. Dedicate one lane to turn on to 311.
- Light at Hanging Rock is timed wrong in morning.

Route 419

- 419 traffic signals need to be coordinated, especially at rush hour.
- Allstate has very few employees now. Can traffic signal be flashing yellow?

Bendermeer Road

- Bendemeer Road gets washed out with major flooding. Cones have been there for 4 years. No asphalt left, only gravel.

Blacksburg Road



- Blacksburg Road needs more Biker Safety signage. Share the Road Signage.

Bradshaw Road

- 3-way stop needed at Bradshaw Road approaching Alltree Trail at gas station.
- Consider reducing speed limit on eastbound Bradshaw Road at curve near Alltree Trail.
- Asphalt bump at patch at Bradshaw Road and Hickory Hill Drive.
- Take care of wet weather spring on Bradshaw Road just east of Hickory Hill Drive.
- Need new drainage ditches on Bradshaw Road.
- Bike lane on Bradshaw Road.
- Agree with Bradshaw Road bike lane comment. It is currently very dangerous for bikes and cars.
- Overcrowding on Bradshaw Road due to bicycles; bicycles causing safety issues for drivers on Bradshaw Rd.
- Drivers can be safer on Bradshaw Road.
- Erosion issues on road shoulder (*posted near Bradshaw/Hidden Cove/Hideaway - not sure if this is supposed to be general or correspond to a specific location*)
- Pavement on Bradshaw Road is bad.
- Potholes, rough roads (*posted near Bradshaw in the middle of the map - not sure if this is supposed to be general or correspond to a specific location*)

Carterdell Road

- Paving on Carterdell Road needs work, especially in middle of road.
- Consider one-way circulation on Carterdell Road due to narrow width, consider widening.
- Fix flooding at culvert under middle of Carterdell Road.
- Pavement on Carterdell Road is bad.

Carvins Cove Road

- Speed limit on Carvins Cove Road should be posted.

Duck Pond Road

- Duck Pond Road has a private bridge that won't accommodate heavy vehicles/rescue vehicles today without improvements.

Dutch Oven Road

- Open Dutch Oven Road bridge to light traffic or emergency vehicle access.
- Potential for Hinchee Trail parking/access on north end of Dutch Oven Road?



- Hard to turn out of Dutch Oven Road onto 419 at morning and evening rush hour due to Allstate and AEP.

Newport Road

- Wider shoulders needed along Newport Road to decrease crashes.
- AT crossing at Newport Road - People park there when there isn't space.
- Hikers walk from Four Pines to the convenience store along Newport Road with no shoulder.

Old Catawba Road

- Make Old Catawba Rd one-way. Widen it in places and use it for parking.
- Blind turn at Carterdell Road and Old Catawba Road where school bus gets in other lane and blocks road.
- Old Catawba Road floods at first curve north of Carterdell Road. Floods leave gravel behind and culverts are clogged. Bus turnaround needs to be paved and warning signs are needed.
- Speeding an issue on Old Catawba Rd.

Timberview Road

- Limited access parking by WVWA sticker at Timberview trailhead.
- Bicycles on Timberview Road causing traffic problems (driving at slow speeds). Can property owners have more representation on issue?

Miscellaneous Comments

- Mark Catawba Sustainability Center land on maps.
- Chain across Forest Acre state road w/ Private, No Trespassing sign prohibiting access.
- Triple Bennett Springs parking lot capacity.
- Carvins Cove use fee is not transparent, would like it to go to trails.
- Riding Hinchee Trail to Carvins Cove – how to charge?
- Post all speed limit signs so speed limits will be < 55 mph

General Comments:

- Staff spoke with many people about the 311/419 Roundabout and most had positive feedback. I also talked with many people about McAfee Knob proposed bridge, trailhead parking issues to include Old Catawba Road parking issues, and explained what the County has done and may do in the future to help the overcrowded parking lot.
- More signage is needed about cyclists on roads.
- Bicycles are causing safety problems for drivers and drivers are being penalized for it.

CORTAN Comments:

- Out of the individuals staff spoke with regarding CORTAN, only two had heard of the service.
- Information/applications were shared with 25 individuals.
- Five CORTAN surveys were returned from the meeting.



- General comments - \$5 fare is too much, individuals have not seen the Via vans around town, most are still driving and do not need the service. Overall, individuals thought it was great that the County had the program.

Protection and Preservation

Meeting Exercise: Leave a comment about natural and cultural resources on the map.
Tell us what this map is missing? What's valuable to you and why? What is impacted or needs improvement?

Meeting Exercise Comments:

- Protect viewsheds, ridgeline protection, trails, greenways.
- Mapping should show the historic railroad bed near Carterdell Road.
- Several comments were made to protect Virginia Tech's Catawba Sustainability Center.
- There was a WWII POW camp in Catawba.
 - *Staff research:* at what is now the site of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association's Ward Haven retreat (off Bradshaw Road in Catawba). From 1943 until 1946, the camp housed 150 German POWs who worked in nearby orchards. It was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933.
- Note the historic origins (a mineral springs resort) of the Bennett Springs community.
 - *Staff research:* (a summer retreat for families in the early 1900s which included a swimming pool and a tennis court, surrounded by cottages). Nothing remains today of the former retreat.
- There was a poorhouse associated with the Smith-Horne Cemetery.
 - *Staff research:* "The earliest area poorhouse was operated by Roanoke County in the Masons Cove area. Later, that facility moved to a tract in Glenvar where it eventually became Mercy House, forerunner of today's Richfield Retirement Center.)." – Roanoke Times, The Poorhouse Stigma, 2019. According to RVHS 1986, "the old Roanoke County Poor House was here, and the [Smith-Horne] graveyard contained many pauper burials."
- Need to remove the "Sirry" Trail line near Bending Oak in Catawba; this is not a public access trail for the AT.
- Need to add Hinchee Park boundary to map.
- Need to add Audie-Murphy Monument as a landmark to the Catawba map on Brush Mountain.
- Many dilapidated barns in the Catawba area are at risk.
- The Homeplace should be preserved.
- Protect Carvins Cove as a natural resource (not just recreational).
- More parking is needed at McAfee Knob trailhead; bathrooms are also needed. A dedicated route for day hikers could be located on the fire road.
- The GIS does not accurately show the western property acquisition that expanded Havens Wildlife Management Area. The limits should be approximately two miles further west and one mile deep from Bradshaw Road.
- Havens Wildlife Management Area trails should be added to maps.



- The private driveway that crosses 3049 Forest Acre Court in Masons Cove in order to access Havens Wildlife Management Area should not be restricted by a chain.
- Bendameer Road floods across the road and bridge when it rains.
- There are increasing incidents of bears on residential properties near Mason Creek in Masons Cove.

General Comments:

- 5800 block on Bradshaw Road – cutting of 100 acres caused creek to rise.
- Graffiti on concrete slabs near Route 311 and AT crossing – would like to have mural on concrete slabs instead. Hillside off of Old Catawba Road is a dumping ground for trash.
- Trash along roadways – need to pick up trash along Route 311 and along Old Catawba Road.
- Trash is coming out of the top of trash trucks (going to the landfill).
- More parking is needed at McAfee Knob trailhead along with bathrooms. Need dedicated route for day hikers on fire road.
- What are the future uses of Carvins Cove property in the city?

Miscellaneous Comments

- Land Use Assessment Process – application process/fees required too often (annually) – easy to miss application process.

Summary Approved: PGT