City Council Work Session

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. WMATA Budget Update
- 3. Greenbelt Metro Station Hiker/Biker Trail Project
- 4. Other Items

Wednesday
March 29, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Room 201
Greenbelt Community Center

CITY OF GREENBELT

25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD. 20770-1886



April 12, 2016

Mr. Jack Evans, Chair WMATA Board of Directors Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority 600 5th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001

Re: Support of the Greenbelt Metro Station Hiker/Biker Trail Project

Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor Judith F. Davis, Mayor Pro Tem Konrad E. Herling Leta M. Mach Silke I. Pope Edward V.J. Putens Rudney M. Roberts

CITY COUNCIL

Dear Mr. Evans:

The City of Greenbelt is extremely pleased to welcome residents from our new residential community, Greenbelt Station. This new residential community is located within a half mile of the Greenbelt Metro station, separated by a wooded area owned by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). For the past several years, the City has worked with WMATA staff and the developers of this project to provide a direct pedestrian and bicycle trail connection for Metro users between the station and the Greenbelt Station community and other nearby areas.

As early as the fall of 2014, the City had conversations with Mr. Patrick Schmitt, WMATA Director. Office of Parking, regarding the procedural steps required to design and implement the trail. Based on the prior direction received from Mr. Schmitt and other WMATA staff, the City had perused the undertaking of surveys, the development of engineered trail plans, and public input process to serve as the jurisdictional sponsor of the trail. From there, it was our understanding that WMATA would work with the City to prepare the legal mechanisms for maintaining the trail in the future given the potential development scenarios of the area immediately surrounding the station.

As the trail sponsor, this January the City submitted a connection request letter and supporting documents to the Office of Real Estate and Station Planning to begin the project review process with WMATA. Subsequently, we were informed that WMATA will not proceed with a review and approval of this project until after the FBI Headquarters consolidation and relocation decision has been made by the General Services Administration. The City understands that should Greenbelt be selected as the new FBI site, the area immediately surrounding the station will be developed to accommodate this facility and private mixed-use development and that these efforts impact construction of the previously discussed trail. However, the City still feels strongly that providing a direct and convenient connection between the Greenbelt Metro Station and the existing Greenbelt Station neighborhood is vitally important.

Therefore, the City requests that WMATA work with us to prevent untimely delay in connecting the Greenbelt Station neighborhood to the Metro station and recommends the following actions:

- That WMATA's Office of Real Estate and Station Planning initiate now a review of the submitted trail connection plan so that in the event Greenbelt is not selected as the FBI's relocated headquarters site, the project will be further along the review and approval process and ready for immediate implementation.
- That WMATA Bus service be extended to the Greenbelt Station neighborhood as soon as possible to serve as a direct transit connection for Greenbelt's residents that are currently not served by a nearby Metro bus stop location.

The City Council wishes to highlight the critical connection opportunity between our newest neighborhood and the Greenbelt Metro Station. The Council requests your assistance in expediting the review of this project and your support in approving the use of Metro owned property for the trail, should Greenbelt Station not be selected as the FBI Headquarters relocation site.

Sincerely.

Emmett V. Jordan

Mayor

/jb cc:

Malcolm Augustine, WMATA Board of Directors
Paul J. Wiedefeld, WMATA General Manager and Chief Executive Officer
City Council
Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager
Celia Craze, Director of Planning and Community Development
Jessica Bellah, Community Planner
Garth Beall, Renard Development



April 28, 2016

The Honorable Emmett Jordan Mayor City of Greenbelt 25 Crescent Lane Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Mayor Jordan:

Thank you for your April 12 letter to Metro Board Chair Jack Evans regarding development of a proposed hiking/biking trail between Greenbelt Metrorail Station and the new Greenbelt Station residential community.

As you have noted, Metro staff previously advised against proceeding with the plan review at this time because of the potential relocation of the FBI headquarters, which would require portions of the trail to be relocated if constructed as currently designed. However, we are happy to work with the City of Greenbelt to review the current plan as requested to avoid any delays should Greenbelt not be selected as the future FBI site. Mr. Tariq Bushnaq will be in contact with your project team in the near future to discuss next steps.

In consideration of the current uncertainties regarding the FBI relocation, any documents that are executed to support the construction and operation of this trail must be revocable to allow for adaptation to support future development. Additionally, at this time Metro is unable to contribute financially to the design, construction, maintenance, or relocation of the trail and any executed agreements will require a commitment from the City of Greenbelt to fund those obligations.

With regard to your request to extend Metrobus service to the Greenbelt Station neighborhood, we do not believe this is feasible in the near- to midterm for the following reasons:

- Greenbelt Station has a community shuttle that connects residents to Greenbelt Metrorail Station, so any Metrobus service would duplicate this service.
- Without major engineering work, we cannot install ADA-compliant stops on Greenbelt Road because the current configuration presents potential issues with topography and with fences or guardrails abutting the sidewalk.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

600 Fifth Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 202/962-1234

www.wmata.com

A District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia Transit Partnership An alternative approach, routing the C2 through the community, is not feasible because the community's own roadway constraints will not accommodate 40-foot buses, and sending the C2 through Greenbelt Station would add significant time to all C2 trips. This would both inconvenience existing C2 riders and require additional funding to keep running the C2 at existing frequencies.

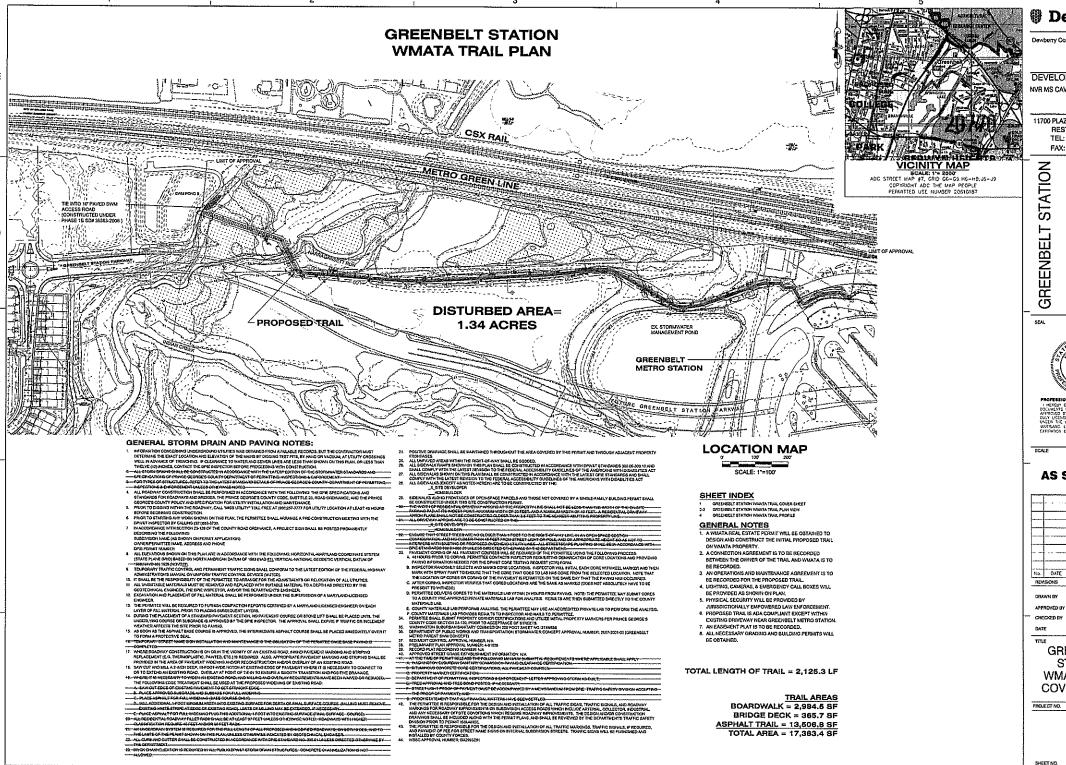
Thank you again for your letter and your support for Metro. We look forward to continuing to partner with the Greenbelt City Council and the Greenbelt Station community on this project. You may also contact Nina M. Albert, Director of Real Estate and Station Planning at 202-962-2616 or nmalbert@wmata.com if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Wiedefeld General Manager and

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Chief Executive Officer



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DEVELOPER/APPLICANT NVR MS CAVALIER GREENBELT, LLC

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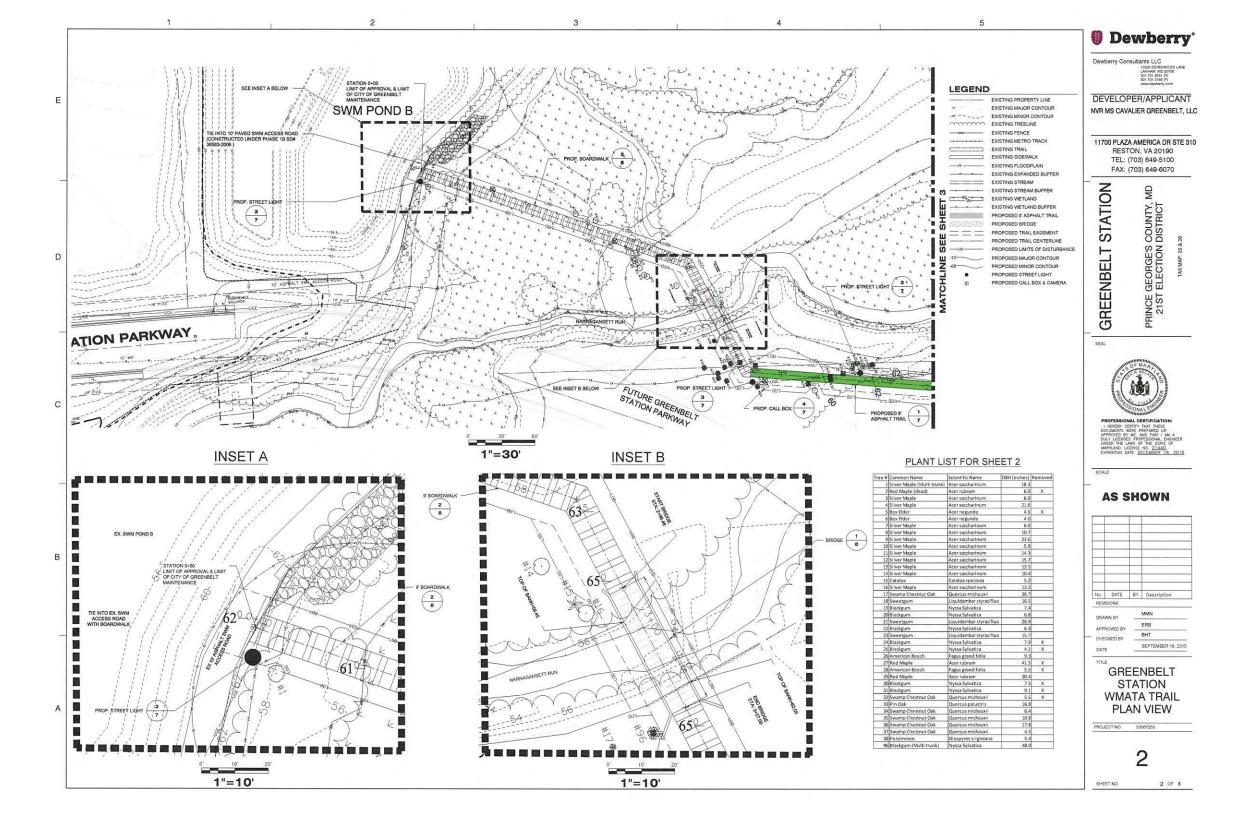
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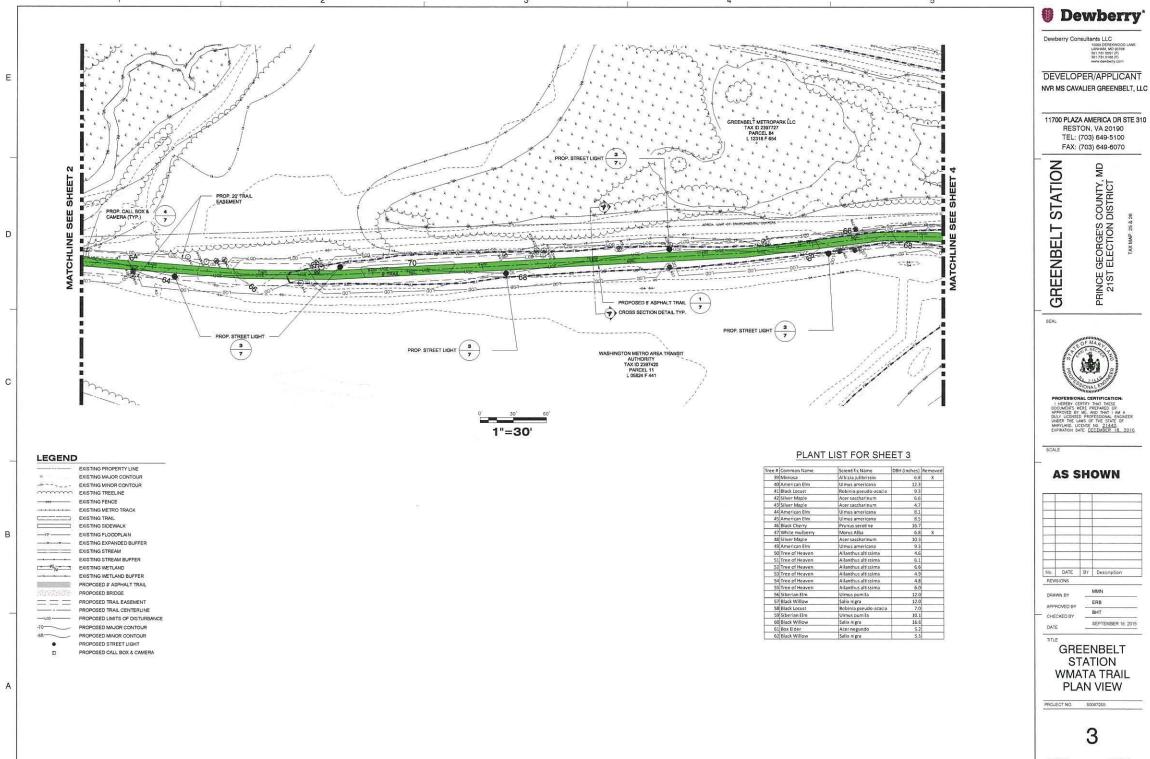
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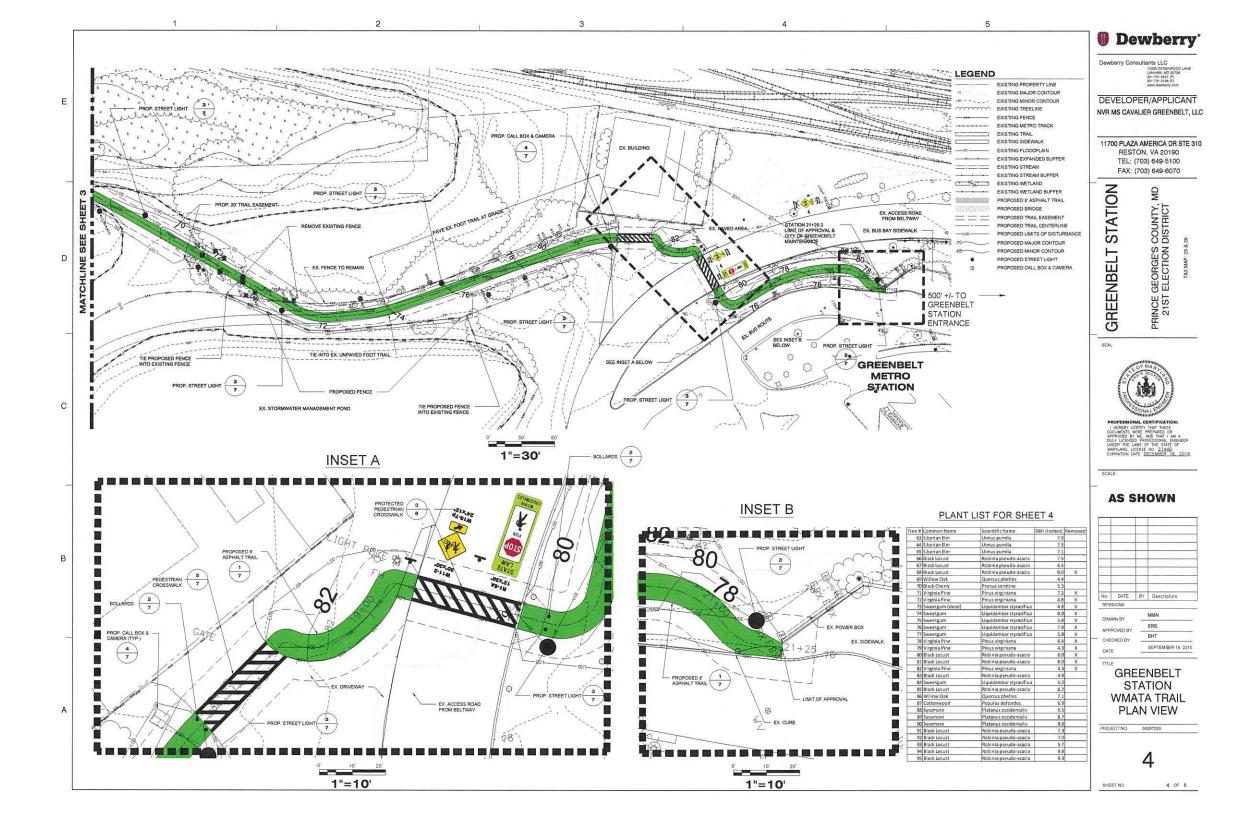
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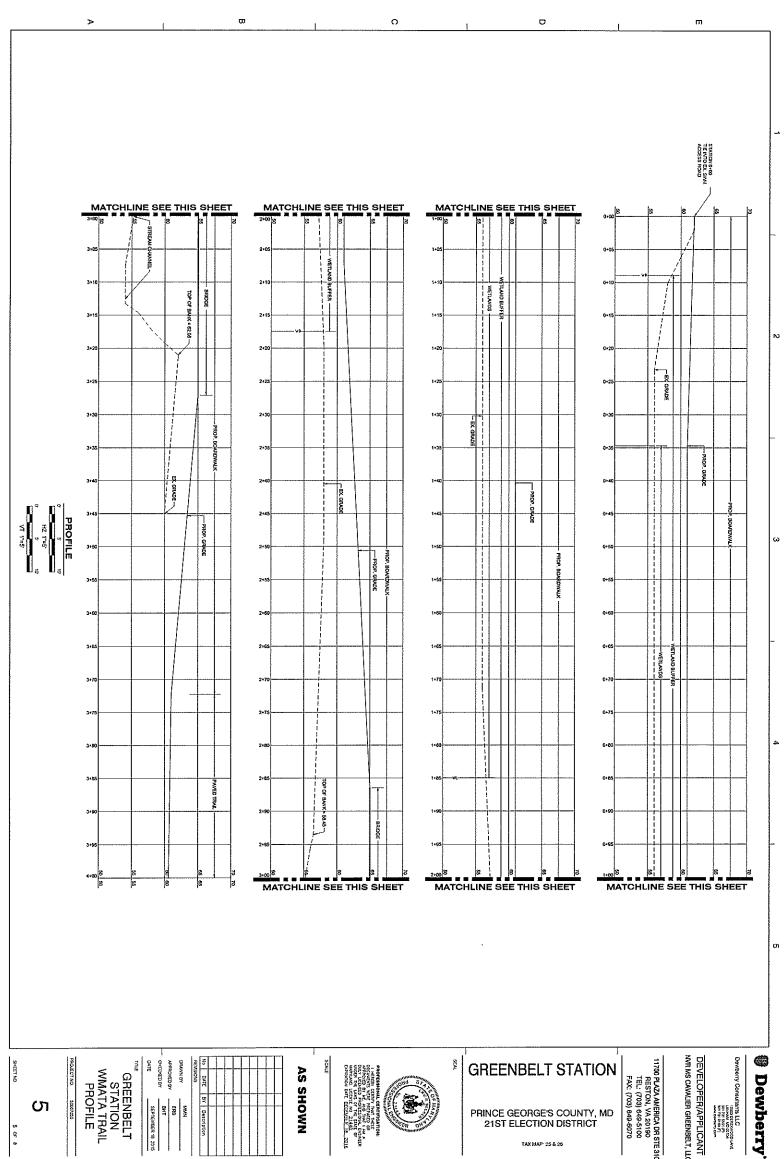
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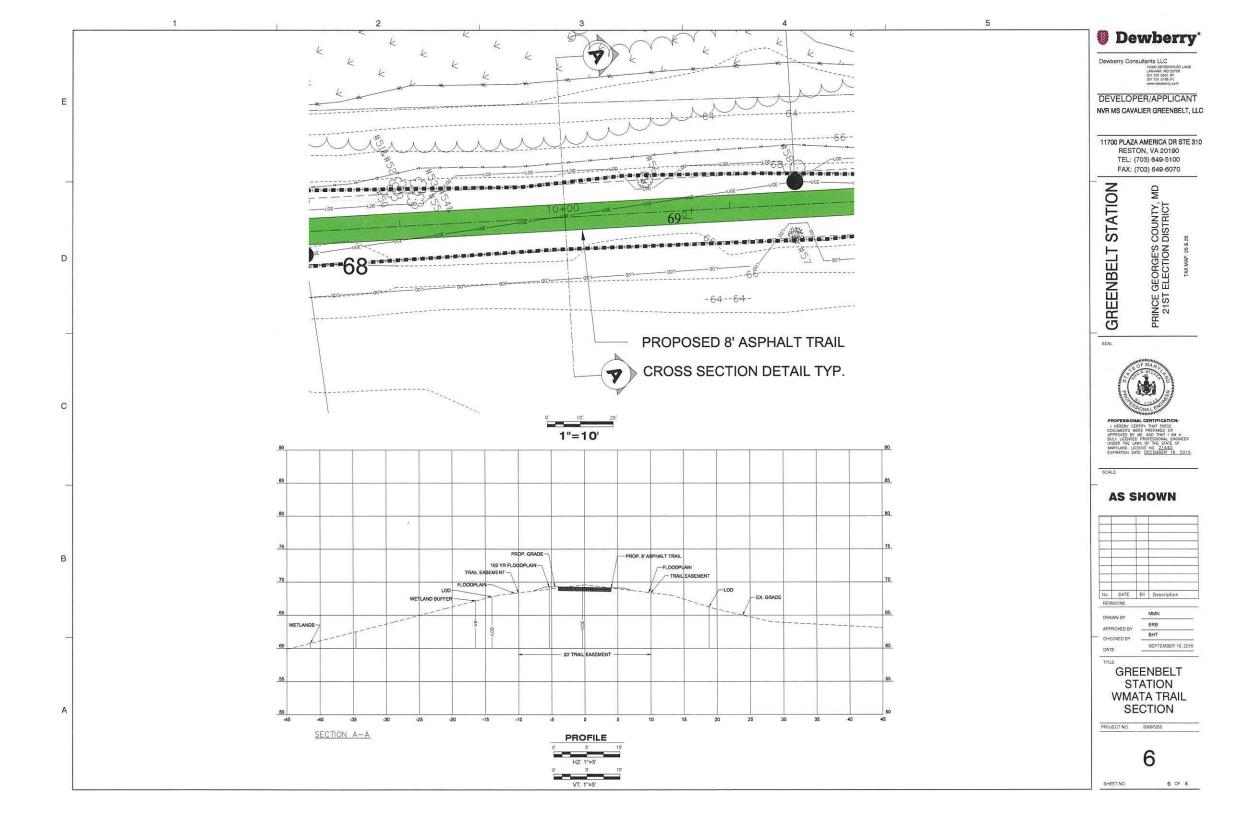


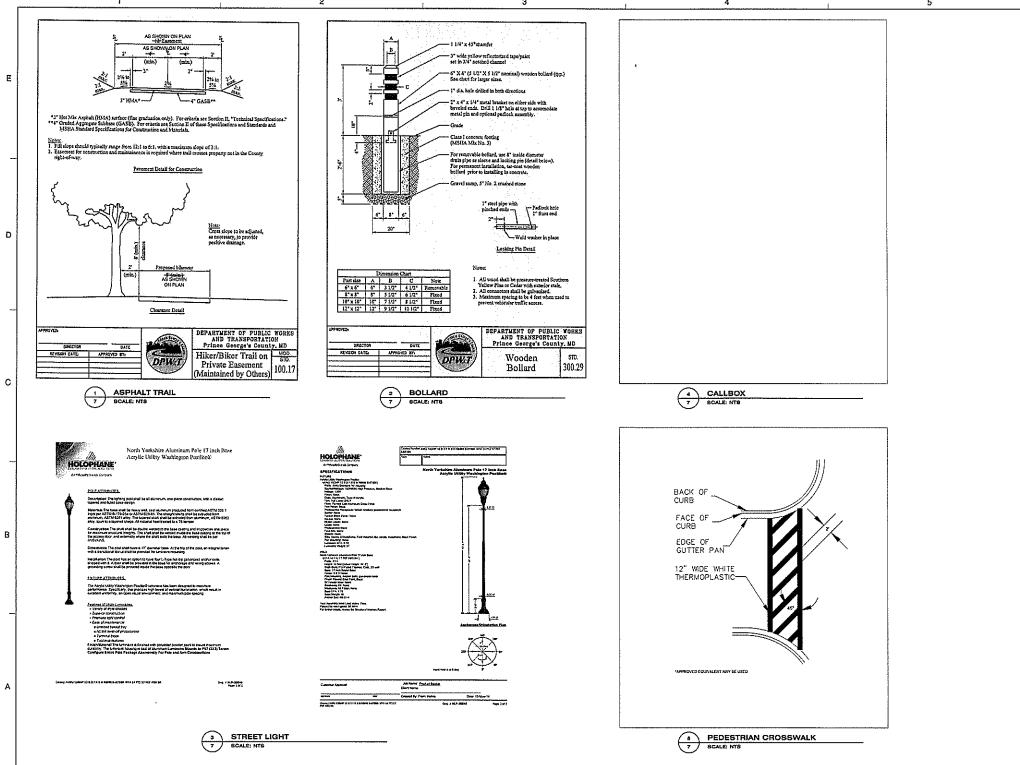
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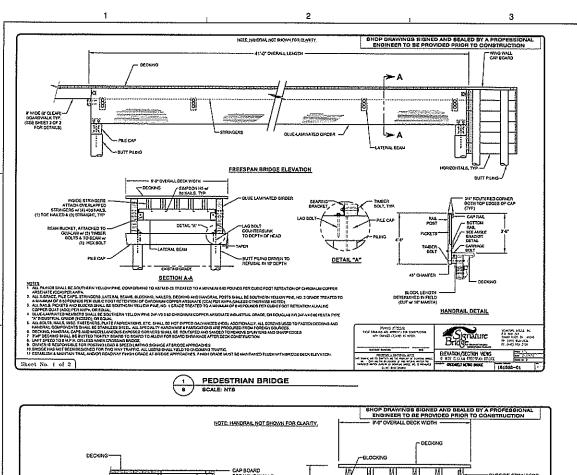
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