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To: Residents within 300' of Carrs Wharf Pier

Carrs Wharf Access Road Improvements

Anne Arundel County Capital Project No. P573302

Office of Planning & Zoning Community Meeting presenting the 30% Schematic Design

Public Input Period: 8/18/23 - 9/4/23

Project Status Updates:

As a result of this meeting the County Departments reviewed the need for the additional widening of the access road and the turnaround to ensure operational compliance with all Code requirements. Should the pier at Carrs Wharf not be used for docking any boats and that the use of the soft launch be limited to only canoes, kayaks and other cartop watercraft, the Fire Department will not require that the planned wider roadway, turnaround area, and other fire protection measures be constructed. The Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) is adjusting certain operational procedures to ensure compliance with the Fire Department's directives. For that reason, the portions of the project related to the additional widening and turnaround improvements at the wharf have been suspended.

However, the County does plan on continuing to improve ADA parking and access at the park and to investigate concerns about the condition of the bulkhead on the Rhode River. Because of these significant changes to the project there will be a second public meeting to discuss the bulkhead and the ADA improvements. The project scope has been revised to include the ADA parking space and unloading zone, accessibility route from the space to the pier, pier modifications to meet ADA ramp requirements, bike racks, signage, and stormwater management. Some of the concerns raised during the meeting are being addressed by DRP. The Department will continue to engage the local community to address operational issues. Please read the full meeting minutes as concerns about signage, operations, and traffic are addressed in that document.

**Comments/Questions are written verbatim.*

<u>Date Rec'd</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Comment/Question</u>	<u>Response</u>
8/17/23	Max Green	Regarding Carrs Wharf Project, I am horrified to learn that the County is endeavoring to subvert existing regulations which protect the environment by applying for variances to these laws, and then spending tens of thousands of dollars to reestablish what has been destroyed. Surely \$800,000 would be better spent on schools.	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/17/23	Toby Green	Regarding Carrs Wharf, it is naive to believe that increasing the width of the road to the wharf will not increase the number of vehicles parked illegally. This project is a solution looking for a problem. The County is knowingly creating problems - parking, erosion, pollution, and degradation of the wetlands.	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

8/21/23	Kathryn Mannes	It is very important that this area be maintained with parking controlled and regular attention to trash and portable potty. Thanks.	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/21/23	Mark Turner	It was brought to our attention at the meeting that replacement of the bulkhead around the planned storm water runoff area was not part of the development plan. When I was at the park on 8/14 during low tide and met with Mrs. Leadbetter, I could only assume that the bulkhead was going to be replaced as it looks in terrible condition. My God, it was built with creosoted lumber...how long has it been since that was used in bulkheading??? To move forward with this project without replacing the bulkhead first would be a total waste of taxpayers money as it is what will be holding the whole project together!	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/22/23	Carolyn Howard	<p>The current signage doesn't convey the restriction of a soft launch only and the unkept state of the wharf does not provide confidence in the local community that a MUCH larger open space for parking along side the road and in the turnaround will be monitored or cared for any better than the current park. We just don't understand how this "need" for an emergency turnaround or launch is actually justified wjen the 5 marinas within a 1/2 mile provide the same capabilities.</p> <p>With existing justification for this "safety modification" we would require turnarounds on every single street on this peninsula. A waste of our tax dollars and time - ultimately resulting something the local community doesn't want and AAC doesn't even use. The majority of tags parked there any given time are from out of State.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/22/23	Lisa VanBuskirk	<p>My family request a year pause, until Anne Arundel County addresses current operational concerns including, but not limited to erosion, trash removal, parking enforcement, and toilet/sanitation issues. AACO also needs to address jurisdictional issues between County Rangers and County Police regarding enforcement. Please provide access to all required reports, including but not limited to the Environmental Report, the Erosion assessment and the Traffic Study.</p> <p>A number of commercial marinas providing 24 hour (lighted) water access to emergency service personnel are available within hundreds of feet of Carrs Wharf. Please provide additional information as to why fire department access is required at Carrs Wharf and cannot be provided to emergency services at these alternative marinas with appropriate facilities to launch emergency maritime assets.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/22/23	Rahel Rosner	<p>I support the Fire Department's need to expand the Carrs Wharf Access Road and develop an emergency vehicle only turnaround and a roadway wide enough for an emergency vehicle. There are existing concerns which need to be addressed immediately:</p> <p>Operating Concern (Current) - Waste and refuse consistently exceed the barrels provided and pollute the waterway and shoreline. According to the AA County employee responsible for picking up trash, this is probably the "worst" park of the 30</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you. The Your Pass Know system is not suitable for this location. That system is used in regional parks where there is staff present to facilitate the use of the system. This is a community amenity and functions similarly to other community wharfs such as Green Haven and Galesville Wharf where no there is no onsite staff. The DRP is

	<p>for which he has responsibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Park Users have been seen the Wharf/River as a toilet (urinating and defecating into the Rhode River) as the once a week Port-A-Potty cleaning schedule is not sufficient. - Cars/individuals are consistently on the Wharf outside of the park hours - Parking limits are regularly exceeded, implement a pass system - Park users regularly trespass on private property - install no trespassing signs and fencing to designate park land versus private property - Install an automated access control gate to prevent after hours access to pier and parking - Increase ranger and police patrols, especially on Friday, Saturday's and Sundays. Complaints to Park Rangers are steered to the Police who are occupied with other enforcement measures. After hours complaints are typically ignored. 	<p>reviewng the frequency of park patrols for maintenance and enforcement of park rules.</p>
	<p>Proposed Project (Concerns)</p> <p>1. EROSION: This location is at the base of a vegetated hillside. The plan calls for de-forestation and installation of a very small 2 ft retaining wall. PLEASE evaluate this further as it is unlikely that this will be sufficient for erosion control.</p> <p>2. TRAFFIC STUDY AND MANAGEMENT: Please provide a traffic study and plans to manage and control parking, after hours security, plan.</p> <p>3. PUBLIC ACCESS AND CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Install a gate at the bottom of Carrs Wharf Road such that before/after hours access is deterred. b. Install barriers to ensure the emergency turnaround and roadway is always available for Emergency Vehicles ONLY. c. Parking pass system - it has worked effectively at other parks and should be implemented here. <p>4. PARKING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Enforce accessibility to the HANDICAP PARKING SPACE with enforcement, fines and towing b. Establish and Enforce a NO PARKING ZONES on the expanded ACCESS Road and the Emergency Turnaround. This could include bollards and fencing to prevent parking in the turn around and clear delineation and enforced consequences for parking on the roadway. Please advise the community about enforcement plans and the consequences for non-compliance. How is that consequence initiated? c. Add this language to NO Parking Zone signage. 	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>
	<p>5. REFUSE & WASTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assess and ADDRESS Refuse containment issues which will increase as this area becomes more accessible b. Provide Refuse Containment which cannot be opened by Turkey Vultures c. Provide Clean-up and Refuse Collection at least 4x/week 	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>

		<p>d. A PORT-A-POTTY is typically a temporary bathroom for construction purposes. Install, maintain and service a real bathroom so that the users of the pier can maintain their humanity and we can keep waste out of public spaces and rivers.</p> <p>6. FENCING Confirm the replacement of any residential fencing, in kind, that is taken down during this project. Secure with non-scalable fencing those areas that border on residential properties and install signage to advise PARK USERS where Park -Private Property lines exist and NO trespassing beyond this point.</p> <p>7. LAUNCH AREA Place county only removable bollards to prevent hard launch. Confirm in writing to the Community, publicly that this is a Soft Launch ONLY area and that it will remain so</p> <p>8. ACCOUNTABILITY Commitment to enforcement. Identify which groups will enforce parking, trash collection, bathroom sanitation and hours of operation.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p>	
8/23/22	Jordan Rosner	<p>If you could get the current situation under control maybe the neighborhood would not be totally opposed to the proposed changes. The operation of the current wharf is so poor that we have little confidence that the proposal would just not make the situation worse.</p> <p>Trash - dumped everywhere and not removed often enough.</p> <p>Port-o-Potty so disgusting that people rather use the river over the side of the wharf.</p> <p>Trailers trying to launch boats and jet skis who get stuck or have a challenging time turning around, or then leaving the car and trailer blocking the area.</p> <p>Overcrowding on the wharf</p> <p>People discarding their fishing lines and dead fish in the water that float to the neighboring docks.</p> <p>Loud boom boxes</p> <p>PLEASE figure out a solution to handle the above issues before encouraging more people to visit the Carrs Wharf.</p> <p>You did a terrific job renovating and rejuvenating the Trident Beach park. That project is successful because you put the resources behind the effort to make it a success, in large park due to the work and efforts of the Rangers who help keep the place an awesome place to visit. Thank you.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

8/23/23	Mark Moskovitz	<p>Cleaning up the Carrs Wharf area and providing emergency access is a great aspiration. It would be better placed however, if the county had properly demonstrated it can maintain what's there now - trash removal, porta potty, etc, before taking on additional work load by increasing the size and possible use of the asset.</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>
8/23/23	Aaron Paquette	<p>I am a local county resident and visit carrs wharf occasionally and attended the hearing. I was disappointed I was unable to speak during the meeting as the same people were speaking over each other. Public meetings with that many people should have a speaker time limit!</p> <p>I am very happy with the county efforts to improve parks and access to the water and I appreciate the effort being done to improve Carrs Wharf.</p> <p>One huge problem I have with this meeting, and this is a problem with other similar planning meetings I have attended is they don't have good goals. The motivations MUST be clear. The presentation has the #1 "design goals" being to "Widen the road" and "provide a turnaround". The goal should be to provide access to the area for enjoyment of county residents and provide safety. I am skeptical that widening the road improves safety, I actually suspect it encourages speeding and parking along it, causing more safety issues than it solves. I agree with many of the residents who also suspect the turnaround would likely be parked in anyway and the rest of the 99.99999% of the time its not used as a turnaround, its just going to be wasted space.</p> <p>I would like to see the county focus on pedestrian and bike access to local parks including carrs wharf. Many of the residents concerns were with parking and if people could easily and safely bike there there it would ease demand on parking. I would like to see a lockable bike rack (inexpensive and takes up very little room), and improvements to the roadways for safe pedestrian access. I believe widening the road without adding sidewalks or bike lanes is worse for pedestrian and cycling safety and has other negative externalities that were not discussed.</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>
8/23/23	Kerrie Flaherty	<p>I understand the need for emergency equipment to have access to the River but the area of impact needs to be re-bulked first to secure the land of which is very wet sand and likely not able to handle big equipment. A re-evaluation of this area is definitely needed before any work should begin.</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>
8/24/23	Rosemary & Ken Roussil	<p>Members of the Mayo Community were very respectful at the community on August 17th and listened to the information from the Anne Arundel County representatives. We are not trying to do away with the pier at 1001 Carrs Wharf Road. Rather we want the pier to be safe for everyone to use. The rules for activity on the pier need to be followed and enforced. No one should be using the pier after dusk. There needs to be enforcement of the dusk to dawn rule when the pier is closed. Individuals using the pier after it is closed is against the law. And it also dangerous, there have been</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>

		<p>drownings at the pier after the pier is closed. It is imperative that parking not be increased. Additional parking would increase the traffic on Carrs Wharf, endangering the safety of residents and pedestrians. The trash needs to be picked up on a regular basis, and the porta potty needs to be cleaned frequently. These are sanitation issues.</p> <p>There does not seem to be a definitive answer as to how the turnaround for the fire department will be secured and not allow parking there. We are respectfully requesting a gate to be installed to prevent individuals from accessing the pier when it is closed.</p>	
8/26/23	Donald Collett	Bulk head needs to be repaired. Also a fence needs to be installed to keep people off pier after hours and at night for safety	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/26/23	Kristina Govatos	The bulkhead needs repair before starting any work. We need to block any emergency turn around and the pier needs a gate to keep people out in the off hours. Thank you	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/26/23	Marc Mercillott	<p>I would like to request the following be addressed in the planning of this project:</p> <p>General parking control and enforcement to ensure there is no parking on the road</p> <p>Specific parking control to ensure there is no parking in the proposed emergency turnaround</p> <p>Access control such as a locked gate to prevent after-hours access to the area as there is a significant problem with people being loud and disruptive on the pier after hours.</p> <p>More frequent trash pickup and port-a-potty clean out to help with the local vulture problem</p> <p>A parking control system for the existing spots to ensure parking is managed properly</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/26/23	Julie Mercillott	<p>I would like to request the following be addressed in the planning of this project:</p> <p>General parking control and enforcement to ensure there is no parking on the road</p> <p>Specific parking control to ensure there is no parking in the proposed emergency turnaround</p> <p>Access control such as a locked gate to prevent after-hours access to the area as there is a significant problem with people being loud and disruptive on the pier after hours.</p> <p>More frequent trash pickup and port-a-potty clean out to help with the local vulture problem</p> <p>A parking control system for the existing spots to ensure parking is managed properly</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

8/28/23	Emily Parkhurst	Emergency turnaround is not needed at this site. Area has several active marinas that likely meet emergency access boat launch, fire truck and ambulance requirements. Further, property is all/almost all sensitive Critical Area 100' Buffer; should not be disturbed, per MD law. As well, DRP needs to dramatically improve operations at the pier: enforce hours via gate and ranger presence, clean up trash/port-a-pot, install bollards to enforce soft launch only, institute greater coordination with DNR re: fishing regs. Thank you.	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/28/23	Michelle Collett	Please fix the bulkhead before starting work and gate off any emergency turn arounds. Pier also needs a gate to keep people out in the off hours.	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/29/23	Meredith Stone	<p>We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Carrs Wharf Access Road Improvements (P573302). Having attended the presentation on August 17, we are convinced this is a taxpayer-funded boondoggle and a solution in search of a problem. To spend \$800K on widening a road and adding a turnaround for large emergency vehicles is absurd: There are no buildings or facilities at Carrs Wharf that could burn. Ambulances are already able to get in and out (as proven on July 4). Given the existing parking problems and no way to enforce violations, this larger road and turnaround will undoubtedly be used as extra parking. There are no plans to improve the cleanliness of the "park" or add a real restroom. The current port-a-let is not serviced nearly often enough, and trash, including human waste, has always been a huge problem. The lack of sanitation is a far greater and real health risk than any delay an ambulance might have turning around. Removing all of the trees lining the road will cause erosion and possible mud slides. A two-foot retaining wall will not be sufficient. It is also bad for the local ecosystem to be cutting down mature trees. Adding what amounts to a paved parking lot in a wetland is another bad idea (and not something any of us homeowners would be allowed to do. Not addressing the decaying bulkhead around the area before doing any of this is extreme foolishness. The entire project could be wiped out with one good storm. After hours drinking and partying and trespassing on and theft from neighboring properties are also problems that are likely to increase should this project go ahead as planned. There is no need to respond, but we hope that concerns such as above are taken into consideration.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/29/23	Robert McAfee	Please halt the expansion. The large emergency turn around and road expansion will entice many more daily visitors creating a parking enforcement problem. There are many marinas right next to the pier that can be used for emergencies. I walk down to the pier several times a week and do not want to see the nice shade trees removed let alone the negative associated environmental impact. The only thing I have observed needed at this location, and have asked several county officials to provide, are trash bins that can't be manipulated by	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

		animals. I frequently observe buzzards pulling crabbing debris and other trash from the bins and can only assume raccoons are busy at night due to the amount of litter present in the morning. Please provide sufficient trash bins.	
8/30/23	Melanie Wright	My name is Melanie Wright and I have lived in Mayo for decades. I watched complacently, in horror and disbelief, as contractors and planners gave a thumbs up to developing the most precious of places, our wetlands. I refer to all the Beach Projects. A turnaround for emergency vehicles is the latest. Their final target takes aim at Carrs Wharf. Horseshoe crabs, insects and fish are on the brink of extinction, and expansion does not protect them. Millions of dollars have been spent for the pleasure of building, when the county has proven time and time again, they can't manage or maintain what's in place. Park & Recreation has created a mess for those of us who live here. The roads and infrastructure remain the same, while our safety and security hasn't. Police don't respond and towing cars is not in their job description. We have no Park Ranger.	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
		I do not support the expenditure of funds. Since the county has no signed invoices with contractors, budgeted money can be allocated elsewhere. Unlike Sandy Point State Park, we have one way in and one way out on a two-lane road that has double the traffic. State Highway has no money in their budget and P & R claims "it's all good." Accidents and traffic jams are factored into our daily routines. Beachgoers sightsee and drive distracted. Most of us live in communities without sidewalks and a leisurely stroll can be death defying to people and pets. Seniors and the rest of us better have angels at the ready. Trespassing and the need for gates is now happening. They park wherever they like. Beachgoers get out of their cars and take selfies on private property. One neighbor reported an intruder practicing yoga on her dock. Verbal abuse is their song. They use our lands and rivers as toilets, litter and run over anything in their way.	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
		I don't want public foul-smelling places in my backyard. Porta-potties are overflowing, flushing waste into rivers. I see you contaminating our wetlands, soil and groundwater. Clean-up is not happening. I doubt people urinating from docks or relieving themselves from both ends factored into the planner's projections. Who do we call? Police officers don't want to walk in the shoes of a Ranger. Your beach projects disturb the environment and you are supposed to protect it. P & R is making this happen, no matter what it costs or who it hurts. Wetlands? No problem. Toxic waste? No problem. Illegally parked cars? No problem. Residents not safe? No problem. Trespassers? No problem. Eradicating prehistoric creatures? No problem. Disturbing eagles or osprey? No problem. Building a turnaround that residents have lived without for decades? No problem.	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
		P & R is ethically accountable and in violation of environmental law. We are penalized and fined if we so much as trim a tree within 100 feet of the water. We pay the price when we don't. With all the hype about climate change, you continue to desecrate the ground we call	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

		<p>home. The wetlands and Bay are vital! We survived tropical storms like Isabelle when she rained down and the waters rose eight feet. The Rhode and South Rivers met in the middle! Residents, businesses and marinas were hit hard. Building brings an increase in people, repairs, maintenance, taxes, employees and problems. I didn't move here to be a gatekeeper of filth. If you don't maintain what you've built, why do it?</p> <p>As for the launching of boats, remove yourselves from the private sector. If someone buys a boat, they can afford to pay a marina to launch it.</p>	
8/31/23	William Shoemaker	<p>It is not clear that Fire Dept. access is needed at Carr's Wharf. There is no building. There is a pier, but no boats are ever moored at the pier, since it is only used for fishing and crabbing. There is no need to fight a fire as there would be for a building, and there are no boats except as noted below. There is no hard surface ramp to launch a boat. Only canoes, kayaks, rowboats or some other type of craft that will fit on top of a car can be launched.</p> <p>If there is need for a rescue vehicle or ambulance based on an injury on Rhode River, there are three large marinas within a half mile from which a boat could be launched and an ambulance has access. Why is additional access needed? Reference needs to be made to NFPA 1, (National Fire Prevention Association Publication 1) the Fire Prevention Code, and any local amendments to that code. It does not appear that Fire Department or other emergency vehicle access is required.</p> <p>It is also noted that if fire fighting water is needed (for other buildings in the area), there is a 5,000 gallon buried fire fighting water tank at the top of the hill within about 200 yards of Carr's Wharf.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/31/23	Joan Huston	<p>The following comments are my own as a private citizen and do not represent the opinion of my employer or any other entity:</p> <p>I am unable to find an adequate justification for moving forward with this costly project that has a high impact to the critical area. While there were multiple references made about needing environmental variances regarding tree clearing and the addition of impervious surfaces in the critical area, I didn't hear mention of a failed attempt to be granted an exemption for building the emergency access turnaround. Since 2015, there have only been two calls that required Fire apparatus to drive down to the Carrs Wharf Pier. The project manager stated that there is no plan to increase parking or other amenities to create a higher demand at this location. If trends continue, this means that taxpayers will be spending a massive amount of money for a turnaround that will be used an average of once every four years. There were no estimates for the cost of maintaining an artificial submerged gravel wetland in perpetuity, nor mitigating the erosion that will result from cutting down seventeen trees, many on a steep grade holding soils together along the roadway.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

		<p>The houses immediately adjacent to the pier and proposed road improvements have deep water piers that are accessible by fireboat for water supply or are less than 100 feet from an underground drafting tank. Every house in the Carrs Wharf Community is within half a mile of one of the five marinas that have easily maneuverable paved access for a sustainable water supply: Rhode River Marina, Bluewater Marina, Holiday Hill Marina, Casa Rio Marina, and the Hideaway Marina. Most of these marinas also have paved ramps suitable for launching smaller boats; there are no planned improvements to the current gravel canoe launch at the Carrs Wharf Pier.</p> <p>Installing an ADA-accessible parking spot is a fantastic idea; however, that can be achieved with no tree clearing or increase to impervious surface at this site. Widening the road will ruin the character of our local pier that has been here since the 1800s. Building a turnaround that will need to be constantly policed for illegal parking will do nothing to further the public safety of the Carrs Wharf Community. There is no need to sanitize our local gem by trading trees for pavement; a 400 foot one-lane road to a ten car parking lot is adequate and is consistent with the level of use the park currently receives. Engineering design standards don't always need to trump the environment or sense of place. Please, let our little pier remain a small, tree-lined place with character.</p>	
8/31/23	Susan Stevens	<p>The Chesapeake Paddlers Association, as a not for profit organization, totally supports more & improved water access locations in Anne Arundel County.</p> <p>The County proposal for historic Carrs' Wharf is a good start. It will improve shoreline features, adds storm-water management, and creates a few more parking spots, and much better ADA access to the water & the dock. It allows better public access to the Rhodes River- for both fishing , as a boat ramp and hand carry boat launch. CPA uses many of the county public access points for kayaking trips ; more low impact hand- carry launch locations are needed! If more folks have the opportunity to be on the water, they will appreciate & care for the health & future of the Bay & its rivers.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/31/23	Bernie Robinson	<p>Please complete improved public water access for the greater good of the citizens of Anne Arundel County. This location is the only public water access that's open 7 days a week on the Rhodes River. For the safety and benefit of all we need better access for car top water craft.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/31/23	William Shoemaker	<p>For the proposed 20 foot wide access road ... will parking be prohibited on both sides of the road or will parking be allowed on one side?</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/31/23	Maureen Pritchard	<p>We use Carrs Wharf on a regular basis. My husband is a commercial crabber and often picks me up on the pier during his crabbing session. Sometimes, the turkey vultures tear apart the trash cans but for the most part, users are appreciative of the access to the water and respectful of the property. It's particularly wonderful to see folks teaching children how to crab and fish from the pier. We need more facilities like this.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

8/31/23	Elizabeth Turner	<p>I respectfully submit the following :</p> <p>Very concerned about the presented plan on multiple levels. This is a TINY location - approx 100 feet of water access and a pier, with 10-12 parking spots. It is terribly managed in its present state after a quiet 750K expenditure of taxpayer funds for an overbuilt 'recreational' replacement pier.</p> <p>Please put a 12 month moratorium on this project such that EXISTING ISSUES are addressed and monitored to a series of successful outcomes before initiating yet another taxpayer paid project in excess of 950K at this tiny, insignificant site.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
		<p>Key concerns included ACCESS management Parking management A proposed Widened Road significantly impacts both of these existing concerns which the County does not manage. NO ONE opposes the configuration of a ADA compliant parking spot. Yet, without ACCESS Management and Parking Management, the designated parking spot will be a waste of taxpayer dollars.</p> <p>Multiple existing marinas, 5 in the immediate area including one within 150 feet, which already provide emergency access per County requirements which address the basis for the taxpayer expenditure of 950K.</p> <p>During this moratorium, provide public access to the Environmental Study; the Erosion Study , the Traffic Management Study so these can be reviewed by interested parties and then public comment can be made. Doing this during the proposed moratorium & prior to the 90% completion phase, ensures full transparency between the County, the community, and expert parties who will have opportunity to review the studies & comment.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
8/31/23	Elizabeth Boyd	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the design for the Carrs Wharf improvements.</p> <p>Carrs Wharf is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that allows fishing and crabbing, both popular and inexpensive activities. It is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that is open 7 days a week for launching kayaks, canoes and SUPs. (The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is open limited hours and is closed on Sundays and federal holidays.) It is essential that the Carrs Wharf public water access point remain open to the public and be improved so people can enjoy the water in safety and comfort.</p> <p>This design shows the expensive expansion as being used only for an emergency turnaround for firetrucks and ambulances. Suggestion: Create a smaller emergency turnaround for ambulances only in the expansion and use</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

		<p>the remainder to create part of the park expansion for desperately needed additional car parking.</p> <p>Another suggestion: Put the portapotty on a more frequent maintenance schedule. Put in bigger trashcan and empty is daily.</p> <p>Thank you for the proposed the improvements to Carrs Wharf to make it ADA compliant and usable by the general public in safety and comfort.</p>	
9/1/23	Ray Scurr	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the design for the Carrs Wharf improvements.</p> <p>Carrs Wharf is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that allows fishing and crabbing, both popular and inexpensive activities. It is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that is open 7 days a week for launching kayaks, canoes and SUPs. (The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is open limited hours and is closed on Sundays and federal holidays.) It is essential that the Carrs Wharf public water access point remain open to the public and be improved so people can enjoy the water in safety and comfort.</p> <p>The county spent almost a million dollars in 2020-21 to renovate the wharf itself. This ADA, parking lot and access road project will finish the upgrades to Carrs Wharf. This is not a new project - it is the second phase of an ongoing project.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
		<p>In 2009 the county spent \$185,000 to buy the .54 acre next to the existing Carrs Wharf to expand the limited parking, now at approximately 10 spaces. This design shows the expensive expansion as being used only for an emergency turnaround for firetrucks and ambulances. Create a smaller emergency turnaround for ambulances only in the expansion and use the remainder to create part of the park expansion for desperately needed additional car parking.</p> <p>This project will make Carrs Wharf ADA compliant. ADA parking and ADA access to the pier is essential and this project will accomplish that goal.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
		<p>The park obstructionists want Carrs Wharf permanently closed because of maintenance issues with the trashcan and portapotty. The solution to a park maintenance problem is better maintenance, not closing the park. Put the portapotty on a more frequent maintenance schedule. Put in bigger trashcan and empty is daily. Part of the trash problem is animals and birds pulling trash out of the existing trash can.</p> <p>Thank you for the proposed the improvements to Carrs Wharf to make it ADA compliant and usable by the general public in safety and comfort. This project will complete the upgrades to the main 3 county wharves - Carrs Wharf, Green Haven Wharf, Galesville Wharf - to make all three safe and accessible for all.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

9/1/23	Katherine Neale	<p>Please keep Carrs Wharf open to the public with parking and kayak launch available.</p> <p>This is the only access to the Rhode River for people that don't live on the shore. There are only a handful of places for public water access which is badly needed. We also need access for handicapped citizens with ADA parking spaces and unloading areas next to the water. I am a senior citizen and a kayaker.</p> <p>Thank you for listening</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>
9/1/23	Gregory Pokrywka	<p>I am writing to you as the Organizer and Executive Director, representing the 1921 members of the WatersEdge Kayak Club, the Baltimore region's most active sea kayaking club, concerning the Carrs Wharf Improvement Project.. Many of us, including myself, are AA County residents. I hope we can make this superior park EVEN better for all, INCLUDING Sea Kayakers! THANK for your help in implementing these recommendations !</p> <p>We support the suggestions made by Lisa Arrasmith and the Water Access Committee, specifically:</p> <p>* Carrs Wharf is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that allows fishing and crabbing, both popular and inexpensive activities. It is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that is open 7 days a week for launching kayaks, canoes and SUPs. (The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is open limited hours and is closed on Sundays and federal holidays.) It is essential that the Carrs Wharf public water access point remain open to the public and be improved so people can enjoy the water in safety and comfort.</p> <p>*The county spent almost a million dollars in 2020-21 to renovate the wharf itself. This ADA, parking lot and access road project will finish the upgrades to Carrs Wharf. This is not a new project - it is the second phase of an ongoing project.</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>
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		<p>problem is better maintenance, not closing the park. Put the portapotty on a more frequent maintenance schedule. Put in bigger trashcan and empty is daily. Part of the trash problem is animals and birds pulling trash out of the existing trash can.</p> <p>* Thank you for the proposed the improvements to Carrs Wharf to make it ADA compliant and usable by the general public in safety and comfort. This project will complete the upgrades to the main 3 county wharves - Carrs Wharf, Green Haven Wharf, Galesville Wharf - to make all three safe and accessible for all</p>	
9/1/23	Lisa Arrasmith	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the 2023 30% design for the Carrs Wharf access road, parking lot and ADA improvements.</p> <p>The Public Water Access Committee is a group of wet feet activists that works for improved public water access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. We advocate for public swimming beaches, boat ramps, fishing piers, kayak launches, waterfront picnic sites and more. The public water access interest at Carrs Wharf is fishing, crabbing, nature watching, relaxation, launching kayaks, fishing kayaks, canoes and SUPs and temporarily docking big boats.</p> <p>The improvements in this 30% design are not a new project. Rather, they are the second and final phase of the overall renovation of Carrs Wharf. The county spent almost a million dollars in 2020-21 to renovate the wharf itself. The ADA, parking lot and access road improvements in this second phase will complete the renovation of Carrs Wharf.</p> <p>Carrs Wharf is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that allows fishing and crabbing, both popular and inexpensive activities. It is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that is open 7 days a week for launching kayaks, fishing kayaks, canoes and SUPs. (The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is open limited hours and is closed on Sundays and federal holidays.) It is the only public water access point on the Rhode River available for temporarily docking private big boats to pick up and drop off crew, passengers, gear and catch. It is essential that Carrs Wharf remain open to the public and that these improvements go forward so people can enjoy the Rhode River in safety and comfort.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.
		<p>The Committee emphasizes the importance of making Carrs Wharf ADA compliant. Fishing, crabbing and nature watching are all activities that are enjoyed by people with disabilities. The planned pedestrian ramp will make the pier ADA accessible. Many people with disabilities kayak and canoe. The planned ADA parking space, improved parking lot surface and kayak launch will aid them in getting to the water.</p> <p>More parking is the next most needed improvement and the 30% design expands total parking by only one ADA</p>	

		<p>parking spot. In 2009 the county spent \$185,000 to buy the .54 acre next to the existing Carrs Wharf to expand the limited parking, now at approximately 10 spaces. This 30% design shows the expensive expansion as being used only for a large emergency turnaround for firetrucks and ambulances. Modify the 30% design to instead create a smaller emergency turnaround for ambulances only and use the remainder of the expansion to create desperately needed additional car parking.</p> <p>During the August 17, 2023 community meeting park obstructionists said they want Carrs Wharf permanently closed because of maintenance issues with the trashcan and portapotty. The solution to a park maintenance problem is better maintenance, not closing the park. Put the portapotty on a more frequent maintenance schedule. Put in a bigger trashcan and empty it daily. Part of the trash problem is animals and birds pulling trash out of the existing trash can.</p> <p>Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment on the 2023 30% design for Carrs Wharf. This project will complete the upgrades to the main 3 county wharves - Carrs Wharf, Green Haven Wharf, Galesville Wharf - to make all three safe and accessible for all</p>	
9/1/23	Chuck McMillin	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the 2023 30% design for the Carrs Wharf access road, parking lot and ADA improvements.</p> <p>The Public Water Access Committee is a group of wet feet activists that works for improved public water access to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. We advocate for public swimming beaches, boat ramps, fishing piers, kayak launches, waterfront picnic sites and more. The public water access interest at Carrs Wharf is fishing, crabbing, nature watching, relaxation, launching kayaks, fishing kayaks, canoes and SUPs and temporarily docking big boats.</p> <p>The improvements in this 30% design are not a new project. Rather, they are the second and final phase of the overall renovation of Carrs Wharf. The county spent almost a million dollars in 2020-21 to renovate the wharf itself. The ADA, parking lot and access road improvements in this second phase will complete the renovation of Carrs Wharf.</p> <p>Carrs Wharf is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that allows fishing and crabbing, both popular and inexpensive activities. It is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that is open 7 days a week for launching kayaks, fishing kayaks, canoes and SUPs. (The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is open limited hours and is closed on Sundays and federal holidays.) It is the only public water access point on the Rhode River available for temporarily docking private big boats to pick up and drop off crew, passengers, gear and catch. It is essential that Carrs Wharf remain open to the public and that these improvements go forward so people can enjoy the Rhode River in safety and comfort.</p>	Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.

		<p>The Committee emphasizes the importance of making Carrs Wharf ADA compliant. Fishing, crabbing and nature watching are all activities that are enjoyed by people with disabilities. The planned pedestrian ramp will make the pier ADA accessible. Many people with disabilities kayak and canoe. The planned ADA parking space, improved parking lot surface and kayak launch will aid them in getting to the water.</p> <p>More parking is the next most needed improvement and the 30% design expands total parking by only one ADA parking spot. In 2009 the county spent \$185,000 to buy the .54 acre next to the existing Carrs Wharf to expand the limited parking, now at approximately 10 spaces. This 30% design shows the expensive expansion as being used only for a large emergency turnaround for firetrucks and ambulances. Modify the 30% design to instead create a smaller emergency turnaround for ambulances only and use the remainder of the expansion to create desperately needed additional car parking.</p> <p>During the August 17, 2023 community meeting park obstructionists said they want Carrs Wharf permanently closed because of maintenance issues with the trashcan and portapotty. The solution to a park maintenance problem is better maintenance, not closing the park. Put the portapotty on a more frequent maintenance schedule. Put in a bigger trashcan and empty it daily. Part of the trash problem is animals and birds pulling trash out of the existing trash can.</p> <p>Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment on the 2023 30% design for Carrs Wharf. This project will complete the upgrades to the main 3 county wharves - Carrs Wharf, Green Haven Wharf, Galesville Wharf - to make all three safe and accessible for all</p>	
9/1/23	Walter Reiter	<p>Please assure that there is practical public water access at this public property. Permitting and promoting public use of public property and our shared resources benefits both the land, the water, the shoreline, and the neighborhood. As the neighbors will learn, recreational users are good stewards of the environment and will actually prevent misuse of vacant land.</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>
9/2/23	Michelle A Trotter	<p>Carrs Wharf is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that allows fishing and crabbing, both popular and inexpensive activities. It is the only public water access point on the Rhode River that is open 7 days a week for launching kayaks, canoes and SUPs. (The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is open limited hours and is closed on Sundays and federal holidays.) It is essential that the Carrs Wharf public water access point remain open to the public and be improved so people can enjoy the water in safety and comfort.</p> <p>*The county spent almost a million dollars in 2020-21 to renovate the wharf itself. This ADA, parking lot and access road project will finish the upgrades to Carrs Wharf. This is not a new project - it is the second phase of an ongoing project.</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>

		<p>*In 2009 the county spent \$185,000 to buy the .54 acre next to the existing Carrs Wharf to expand the limited parking, now at approximately 10 spaces. This design shows the expensive expansion as being used only for an emergency turnaround for firetrucks and ambulances. Create a smaller emergency turnaround for ambulances only in the expansion and use the remainder to create part of the park expansion for desperately needed additional car parking.</p> <p>* This project will make Carrs Wharf ADA compliant. ADA parking and ADA access to the pier is essential and this project will accomplish that goal.</p> <p>I would like to see this project completed.</p>	
9/3/23	Chip Walsh	<p>I strongly support the completion of planned improvements at Carrs Wharf.</p> <p>The present design features a large turn-around area that will be signed "no parking." Judging by the scale of the design drawing, this area is 30' wide and about 60' deep. The road to the area is 20' wide. How many trips to Carrs Wharf does Emergency Services make in a normal season? I've never seen an ambulance or a firetruck at this location and am guessing the traffic volume is low. At my house, I frequently need to back out 300' to the street because somebody parks in my turnaround area. I'm now pretty good at it and I'm thinking the Emergency Services drivers are also pretty good at backing up. I suggest reducing the size of the turnaround area and converting some of the area to parking.</p> <p>Thanks for extending the period of comment and thanks for listening.</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>
9/4/23	Laura Thrall	<p>The county claims that a requirement for a turnaround area for emergency vehicles is the reason for the road expansion. The county has not produced a needs assessment validating this premise, and there are several marinas with access points within the area that can provide this function, if needed. Expanding the road will only exacerbate the problems that currently exist by increasing the number of vehicles/people who can access the pier, while not addressing issues of trash, human waste, after-hours usage, illegal parking, etc. We have yet to see an environmental study and current plans include removal of trees, expansion of impervious surface, etc. well outside of the restrictions that tax-paying landowners must adhere to.</p>	<p>Please see the project status updates at the top of the comments and responses. Thank you.</p>

