



## April 2010 “A Month in Review”

- **An Update on My Efforts to Solve I-66 Congestion** – The April 19<sup>th</sup> town hall meeting on I-66 was well attended. I am continuing my push for short and long term solutions to I-66 congestion and have taken several actions as a result of the town hall meeting.
- **Moving Forward: An Update on Two Major Road Projects** – Two very important transportation projects, the Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes Parkway interchange and Fairfax County Parkway Phase 3, are moving forward.
- **School Budget: Tell FCPS to Focus Their Spending on our Teachers, Classrooms and Students:** The School Board will adopt their budget on May 20th. I encourage you to email the School Board and let them know that they must do a better job of focusing their resources on our teachers, students and classrooms.
- **Save the Date: Internet Safety Town Hall Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>** – Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and I will be holding a town hall focused on things that you and your kids can do to avoid dangers we all come across online.
- **Mowing Information for VDOT** - Roadsides along low-volume primary and most secondary routes will be mowed no more than twice this year between late April and late October.

## **An Update on My Efforts to Solve I-66 Congestion**

*April 19<sup>th</sup> Town Hall a Huge Success*

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Frank Wolf, Supervisor Mike Frey and I hosted a Town Hall Meeting titled “***I-66-Today and the Future: Common Sense Solutions to Address Gridlock.***” The town hall was well attended by people from not only Fairfax County but several surrounding jurisdictions as well.

The meeting featured discussions on many solutions I have been pushing including extended use of the shoulder lanes including on weekends, non-HOV use of the ramps at Monument Drive and Stringfellow Road, status of the EIS for an I-66 Multimodal Study and a session on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). We also had a very informative Q & A session after the presentations. You can watch a replay of the town hall by clicking here: **[I-66 Today and the Future: Town Meeting with Supervisor Pat Herrity](#)**

Following the town hall, at our April 27<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, I made a motion to have the Board include a discussion on Bus Rapid Transit at an upcoming transportation subcommittee meeting. As Herrity Report readers know, I am have been a strong proponent of exploring BRT as a possible short term solution to congestion in the I-66 corridor outside the beltway. BRT could be operational in a much shorter timeframe than rail and could also be implemented at a fraction of the cost of rail which is significant given the scarcity of transportation dollars and lack of density in the corridor. Congressman Wolf is a big supporter of BRT and at the town hall meeting State Senator Chap Peterson presented a letter of support for BRT signed by all of the Northern Virginia Delegates and Senators whose districts touch I-66.

I am pleased to report that the Board did have the discussion on BRT at the April 4<sup>th</sup> transportation committee meeting as part of a larger overview of the pros and cons of different modes of high-speed transportation options for I-66 and other corridors in the region such as Route 28. This was a follow up to a previous Board Matter of mine requesting staff to begin creating the framework of a study to develop an overall vision for a more robust interconnected regional transit network that would ultimately support future growth in the county and provide a feasible alternative to congested highway corridors. This discussion was a great first step.

Fixing congestion on I-66 has been one of my top transportation priorities since joining the Board almost two and a half years ago. We have been successful in identifying and moving forward many short term solutions but identifying a long term solution still remains the goal. Completing the EIS that I was able to get restarted is the first step (see here for more information on my effort to restart the EIS: **[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf\\_files/herrity\\_report/summer\\_2009\\_2.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/herrity_report/summer_2009_2.pdf)**). BRT is a good option for a short/mid term solution and as a precursor to expanded rail in the corridor.

## **Moving Forward: An Update on Two Major Road Projects**

### **Fairfax County Parkway at Fair Lakes Parkway**

The improvement project for the intersection of Fair Lakes Parkway with the Fairfax County Parkway is moving forward. With a cost of \$104 M, the project will widen over three miles of the Fairfax County Parkway to a six-lane divided roadway from Rugby Road to I-66 with grade separated interchanges at Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive. VDOT is currently scheduled to advertise this project for construction bids later this month. Construction is anticipated to start this fall and end in 2013. Though I am not pleased that construction advertisement was delayed for three months from this past February, I will continue to push for this project's speedy completion. More information on this project is available on VDOT's website at <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-rt7100-fairlakes.asp>

### **Fairfax County Parkway Project: Phase 3**

Last month, I attended a citizen information meeting regarding Phase 3 of the Fairfax County Parkway extension project. Phase 3 encompasses the relocation of Hooes Road and Rolling Road with improvements to the Franconia-Springfield Parkway interchange and the Fairfax County Parkway. The meeting was held to present changes to the design originally approved in 2004. Among other items, the changes allow for less clearing in the Barkers Village community, additional soundwalls, reuse of existing roadway, and one less stormwater management facility (and related clearing). These changes do not come without some impacts to surrounding communities. I do have concerns about the additional distance residents in the Donegal Lane/Chancellor Way/Spring Woods communities will have to travel in order to head north on Rolling Road (towards Old Keene Mill Road). There were also many valid concerns brought up by residents at the meeting that I will work with VDOT and the FHWA representatives to help address. These include:

- The proposed stop sign at the intersection of old Rolling Road and the relocated Rolling Road just south of Chancellor Way
- The inadequate ramp at the north end of the project for traffic to enter 7100 towards Reston (and related truck noise)
- Additional soundwalls for Presidential Hills

For more information on this phase of the project, including a detailed project map, visit <http://www.fcparkway.com>

The good news is Phase I and Phase II are scheduled to be completed by late this year and Phase IV (the Boudinot Ramp) is scheduled to be completed by July 2011.

## **School Budget: Tell FCPS to Focus their Spending on our Teachers, Classrooms and Students**

As Herrity Report readers know I have been very vocal about the need for the school system to focus their resources on the kids in the classroom. You can read my thoughts on the school budget here

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf\\_files/herrity\\_report/school\\_budget\\_3-23-09.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/herrity_report/school_budget_3-23-09.pdf) and here

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf\\_files/herrity\\_report/january\\_2010.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/herrity_report/january_2010.pdf).

FCPS will adopt the FY 2011 school budget on May 20<sup>th</sup>. I urge you to email the School Board and let them know that FCPS needs to do a better job of focusing their resources on our classrooms, students and teachers and not on administration.

FCPS will tell you that they have reduced central administration **positions** by 15% over the past two years (FY 2009 and FY 2010) but the reality is that even with those position reductions there was still a 7.6% increase in central administration **costs** from FY 2006 to FY 2011. And that 7.6% increase has nothing to do with the cost of busses, fuel or any expenses related to operating and maintaining school buildings or equipment. Those are all paid for out of different funds.

Our world class schools are the number one reason businesses and families come to Fairfax County but the future success of our school system is not pre-ordained. To ensure that our schools remain the best in the country, FCPS needs to implement solid spending priorities that refocus our education dollars on our classrooms, students and teachers.

You can find contact information for school board members here:

<http://www.fcps.edu/schlbld/members.htm>

## **Save the Date: Internet Safety Town Hall Meeting**

On **June 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm**, Supervisor John Cook and I will be holding an Internet Safety Town Hall meeting in the cafeteria of Woodson High School (9525 Main Street, Fairfax). The town hall will focus on things that you and your kids can do to avoid a number of dangers we all come across online. Topics will range from protecting your identity to safe internet surfing tips for children and teens.

Please save the date and be on the look out for an update on the final details.

## **Mowing Information from VDOT**

I recently received the following information from VDOT regarding the 2010 mowing schedule. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office.

## **2010 VDOT Mowing Standards**

VDOT's 2010 mowing standards provide guidance for state and contractor crews in the maintenance of vegetation along Virginia's 58,000-mile highway system. The standards include guidance as follows:

- **Roadsides along interstates, high-volume primary and secondary routes** are scheduled to be mowed no more than three times this year beginning in late April and ending in late October. Litter will be removed at the same frequency. Crews will mow up to 18 feet from the pavement's edge or to the center of the adjacent ditch.
- **Roadsides along low-volume primary and most secondary routes** will be mowed no more than twice this year between late April and late October. Crews will mow up to nine feet from the pavement edge.
- **Roadsides along unpaved routes and low-volume subdivision streets** will be mowed once this year between late April and late October unless safety issues require more frequent attention. Crews will mow up to nine feet from the pavement edge.
- Crews will continue to address areas **along all roads** as needed where vegetation may limit the sight distance of drivers, cyclists or pedestrians. Citizens are encouraged to report any roadside vegetation causing sight distance issues by filling out VDOT's online maintenance request form at [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org) or by calling 800-367-7623 (ROAD). TTY users, call 711.

For more information about VDOT projects or programs, visit [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org). If you need additional help please do not hesitate to contact me or my office directly.

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The *Herrity Report* is a monthly publication from the Office of Supervisor Pat Herrity to keep citizens informed on the issues facing Fairfax County. Communication is important to Supervisor Herrity and he encourages your feedback on the items in the *Report* or other issues that concern you. Past issues of the *Herrity Report* can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/herrity-report-newsletter.htm>. To sign up for the Herrity Report please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield>. If you no longer wish to receive the *Herrity Report*, please send an e-mail to [springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov) with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or call us at 703-451-8873.