



UPDATE FROM SUPERVISOR

JEFFREY C. MCKAY

Grove at Huntley Meadows Homeowners Association

Thursday, December 6, 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lee District Open House

January 5, 2013

1-3pm

Franconia Governmental Center

6121 Franconia Road

Alexandria, VA 22310

A Fairfax County Budget Snapshot

Earlier this week, the Board of Supervisors and School Board came together to hear a preview of the FY2014 budget picture. The news was sobering because of the combination of a fragile economic recovery and uncertainty over the possible impacts of federal sequestration. For the next few years, both boards will be challenged to maintain the services that our residents expect and keep our property taxes at a sustainable level. Our County fundamentals are strong and we expect that by FY2016 our financial bottom line will benefit from such projects as the Springfield Mall redevelopment, Route 1 revitalization plans, development along the Silver Line and in Tysons, as well as BRAC (both in Springfield and Route 1), and Mosaic (in the Merrifield section of the County). However, until then we'll need to reprioritize our wants and needs. We're continuing to budget as prudently as we can—every County agency has been directed to identify spending reductions totaling five percent per year for both FY2014 and 2015. As a matter of fact, since FY2009, General Fund disbursements have increased by 1.4 percent annually. I will again convene my citizen budget committee this year. In the past, they have made many valuable recommendations.

Springfield Mall and Wegmans

Everywhere I go, I'm asked, "What's the deal with Springfield Mall?" Vornado, the Mall owner, has begun the extensive remodeling of the Mall that will take 18-24 months. All Mall tenants (aside from anchors Macy's, Target, and Penny's) vacated the Mall at the end of June. The County approved the Mall plans in record time back in 2009—now that market conditions are better and the owner has decided to move forward, I've assembled a County team to expedite current site plans and building permits. Earlier this week, members of the business community, residents and more than a few members of the press gathered outside the former Garfinkel's department store to watch one of Springfield Mall's outer walls come down. While work inside the Mall has been going on for some time, seeing that construction equipment take large bites out of the old mall building was really exciting. I'm looking forward to a ribbon cutting in about a year and a half. In other good news, you can make out your shopping list for Wegmans—right around the corner from Springfield Mall—at the intersection of Beulah Street and Telegraph Road. Groundbreaking took place earlier this year and the store is scheduled to open in early 2014.

Transit News

We've seen some road and transit progress. Congressman Moran has appropriated \$180 million to widen the Route 1 corridor. Transfer of funding from the Department of Defense to Federal highway was completed on July 16, 2012. The funding will pay for widening 3.4 miles of road from Telegraph Road at the southern end to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway at the northern end, expanding the existing four-lane road to six lanes. The project will provide pedestrian and bicycle improvements. The design is ex-



pected to be completed in fall 2013 after which right-of-way acquisition will proceed. The contract is scheduled to be awarded by the end of 2013, with construction completion scheduled for June 2016.

The 495 express lanes (formerly called Hot Lanes) are about to open and we're getting ready to roll out three express bus routes to Tysons Corner from Burke Center, Springfield, and the VRE station in Lorton. These buses will stop at Silver Line stations and some major offices in Tysons. The Burke route will go into service in January and the other two routes will begin service in March. Buses will run every 15 minutes during rush hour, along with two additional midday trips.

The Virginia Department of Transportation has an informative FAQ on using the Express Lanes, including who can use them without paying a toll, and many other questions. You can find the FAQ online at

<http://www.495expresslanes.com/faqs>.

Transportation Updates

We've long suffered from the constant backups on South Van Dorn Street just before the City of Alexandria. I have been working with our state elected representatives, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the City of Alexandria to find a solution. I believe we may be able to improve traffic flow on this road with adjustments to signal timing and other measures.

Have you noticed the new signage on the Franconia-Springfield and Fairfax County Parkways? The old Route 7900 (Franconia Springfield Parkway) and 7100 (Fairfax County Parkway) are now respectively Route 289 and Route 286. The renaming came about when these roads were reclassified from secondary to primary roads. As primary roads, they can receive federal funding for paving, guard rails, and other improvements. Federal funding usually covers 80 percent of the maintenance costs of interstates and primary roads. (The remaining 20 percent is covered by the state.)

Finally, at long last, we are almost to the end of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project with work expected to be completed by the end of 2012 with only clean up and punch list details remaining for 2013. Once all new lanes for traffic are open on Telegraph Road, signal light timing at East Drive, North Kings Highway and Huntington will be optimized according to traffic volumes.

Mulligan Road linking Telegraph Road and the Route One corridor is back on schedule after a lengthy bid protest. If the schedule holds, we'll be driving on it either at the end of 2013 or first quarter of 2014.

Work is proceeding on another chokepoint with improvements to Telegraph Road from South Van Dorn Street to South Kings Highway. When completed, this county-funded project will add a turn lane from northbound Telegraph Road to South Kings Highway, a right turn lane from southbound Telegraph to South Kings Highway, two left turn lanes from South Kings Highway to southbound Telegraph, along with a sidewalk on the east side and a shared use path on the west side. This project is now in the utility relocation stage and should be under construction in 2013.

Stay in Touch

It is an honor and a privilege to serve you as your supervisor. Please do contact me if you have questions or concerns—my staff and I are here to help.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey C. McKay
Lee District Supervisor

Contact Us!

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