



County of Fairfax, Virginia

Supervisor Herrity jointly with Supervisor Walkinshaw Board Matter

Addressing Safety on the Fairfax County Parkway in the Burke/Fairfax Station area

December 7, 2021

Background: As the Board is aware, on Nov. 22, there was a fatal crash on the Fairfax County Parkway near Burke Centre Parkway that shut a section of the road down for several hours. A driver lost her life after losing control of her vehicle, crossing over from the northbound lanes through the median into the southbound lanes, ultimately colliding with two other vehicles. The preliminary report from the FCPD indicated that speed and alcohol were not factors. This section of the Parkway, heading northbound between 123 and Burke Centre Parkway has been a safety issue for drivers due to right-of-way constraints that impacted the design. We have asked the FCPD for updated crash data for this section of road, including whether the crashes involved a crossover, and the FCPD is coordinating the request with the DMV. Per the DMV website there have been six crashes this year (not counting this current event) in this section of the road between the Clara Barton Drive bridge and Burke Centre Parkway alone. My office has received a number of inquiries about the need to improve this section of the Parkway.

There have been several studies done of this corridor, including a safety study undertaken in 2010, that specifically identified where median barriers and other safety-related improvements could be made. This study was undertaken in response to similar fatalities that took place near Rolling Road. In 2017, VDOT undertook another study that looked at multimodal improvements that could be made in the following 5-10 years. Some of the recommendations in the safety study have been completed but not those that address this specific location. Both studies made recommendations for this section of the Parkway that could address these safety concerns, including additional median barriers, 'signal ahead' signs and beacons, 'posted speed'/'your speed' signage, and others.

While the planned widening of this section of the Parkway should ultimately alleviate the safety issues associated with the road's design, improvement of the section of the Parkway is not currently funded, and implementation is still many years away.

Motion: Therefore Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board direct the County Executive to have the Department of Transportation work with FCPD and DMV to update the crash data, revisit the recommendations made in these studies and any newer technologies or strategies that may be available and report back to the Board with recommendations to address the crossovers incidents in this section of the Parkway.

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