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8% Tax Increase in Tysons On the Way, Misplaced Priorities in Tysons

- **Misplaced Priorities in Tysons, 8% Tax Increase on the Way:** At the Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday I asked the Board to focus proffer dollars from the increased density in Tysons on our priorities, specifically transportation, instead of increasing taxes on our residents and businesses.
- **Town Hall Meeting on Future of the Fairfax County Parkway:** Please join me on October 23rd to hear County staff and VDOT discuss the Parkway's future.
- **Save the Date: Community Meeting on I-495 Express Lanes:** If you plan on using the Express Lanes you will want to get the facts on how they work.
- **Permanent Ramp Closure in Newington: At the Alban Road/Boudinot Drive/Backlick Road Ramp to I-95 South:** Around October 22 the on-ramp from Alban Road/Boudinot Drive/Backlick Road to I-95 south will be closed permanently to traffic looking to access the general purpose lanes.

Misplaced Priorities in Tysons, 8% Tax Increase on the Way

At the Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday I asked the Board to focus proffer dollars from the increased density in Tysons on our priorities, specifically transportation.

The Board proposed adding a service tax district which would increase the real estate tax on the businesses and residents of Tysons by an estimated 7-8%. I proposed reducing the workforce housing proffers by 50% and using those funds to pay for needed transportation improvements; eliminating the need for the service district tax on businesses and residents.

I believe the Board is abundantly aware that I think we should be focusing our proffer dollars on our priorities - transportation, education and public safety - as we did in the 80s and 90s when we gave developers increases in density. And while I believe we do have a role in providing housing for those truly in need, I do not believe it should be our role to use our valuable proffer dollars to provide housing opportunities for those making up to \$130,000 per year; especially in light of our significant transportation needs.

I have heard the constant refrain that we need to provide a mix of housing so that people of all incomes can live in Tysons and that we need people to live near where they work. While I agree that is a noble social goal, I do not believe the argument holds water as we have heard staff say repeatedly that even under the best of circumstances 70% of those working in Tysons will still be commuting into Tysons. I do not believe it is our role to determine the economic make-up of the 70% that will need to commute especially at the cost of funding transportation improvements.

Rather than ask our developers to build housing for people making up to \$130,000 per year with their proffer dollars and then impose a service district tax on the current and future businesses and residents of Tysons to fund transportation, I proposed that we reduce the workforce housing requirements of the plan, have the developers pay for the transportation improvements with the savings and eliminate the service district tax on our businesses and residents. Something I believe to be common sense.

Unfortunately the proposal was defeated, and as a result businesses and residents are looking at a 7-8% increase in real estate taxes beginning next year.

For more information on Tysons proffers [click here](#).

Town Hall Meeting on Future of the Fairfax County Parkway

There have been some successes in improving parts of the Parkway (extension project, repaving, the Fair Lakes Interchange project currently underway), but even with these improvements, the Parkway is experiencing significant congestion. In

order to get in front of the problem and establish a vision for its long-term future before we wake up and find the Parkway as congested as I-66, I in conjunction with the Springfield District Council, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation will be hosting a Town Hall meeting on the future of the Parkway on October 23rd.

Specifically it will:

- Share the history of the Parkway
- Give current and projected levels of traffic
- Explain improvements that are currently planned
- Discuss possible future solutions and plans that should be considered
- Provide an open forum for residents to give their views and offer their own visions for the Parkway

The meeting has been set for:

Fairfax County Parkway Town Hall Meeting
October 23
7 p.m.
James W. Robinson Secondary School
5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax

We hope that you can join us for what will be an informative and well attended meeting.

Save the Date: Community Meeting on I-495 Express Lanes

Please mark your calendars for a community meeting hosted by Supervisor Herrity and Transurban, the project managers for the I-495 Express Lanes.

The meeting will include a presentation by Transurban on how the Express Lanes will work and information you will want to know before using them. We will send out full information about the meeting in an upcoming newsletter.

Date: November 14th

Time: 7 p.m.

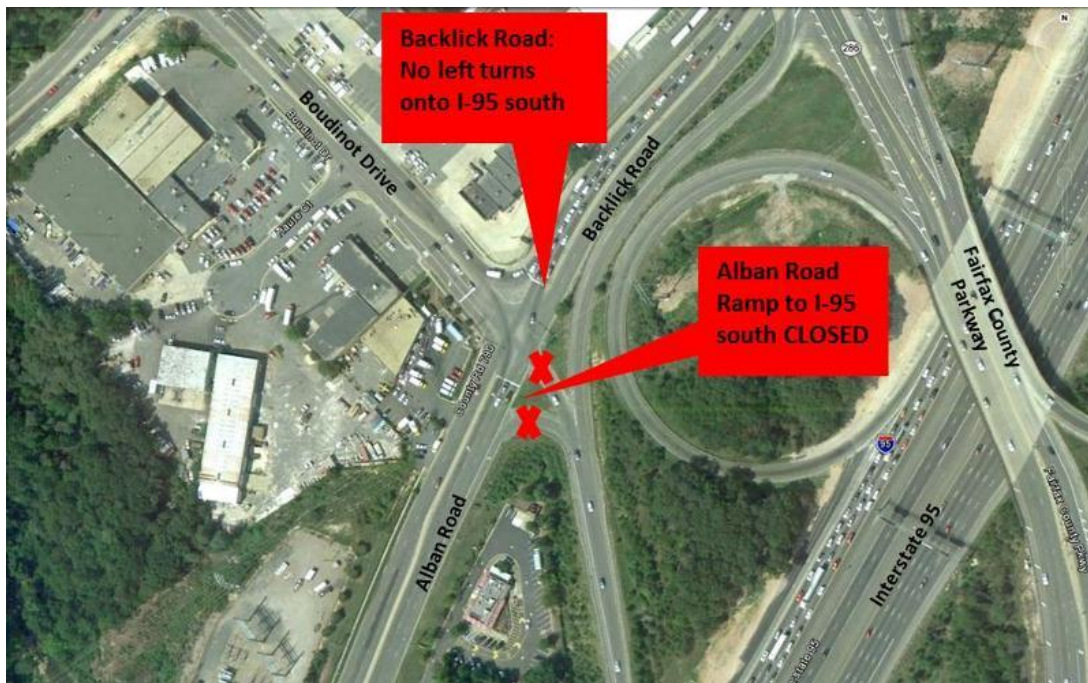
Location: West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road

Permanent Ramp Closure in Newington: At the Alban Road/Boudinot Drive/Backlick Road Ramp to I-95 South

On or about October 22, 2012 the on-ramp from Alban Road (Route 790)/Boudinot Drive/Backlick Road (Route 617) near the Fairfax County Parkway to I-95 south will be closed permanently to traffic looking to access the general purpose lanes.

This closure allows work on the future Express Lanes reversible flyover ramp. It also provides a safe work zone for the traveling public and construction crews. The ramp will be closed until late 2014, when it reopens as a new reversible High Occupancy Vehicle/Express Lanes ramp.

[For more information click here.](#)





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