



The BRADDOCK BEACON

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TOWN HALL ON HIRING OF NEW COUNTY EXECUTIVE PRODUCES INFORMATIVE DIALOGUE

On January 9, Supervisor Cook held a Town Hall to solicit input from County residents and hear their views and expectations for the skills and qualifications that the Board of Supervisors should look for in the new County Executive. The Town Hall included a distinguished panel of business leaders, county employees, and community leaders and produced a very productive dialogue between the panel and those in attendance. Moderated by former Board member Stu Mendelsohn, the panel included Jon Peterson, Senior Vice President at the Peterson Companies; Karen Conchar, President of the Fairfax County Government Employees Union; Ann Zuvekas, the current Braddock appointee to the Health Care Advisory Board; and Paul Liberty, most recently Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations for GTSI. In the end a few core qualities emerged as the expectations from both residents and the panel, as well as recommendations for areas that should be focused on as the County moves forward.

These include:

- The new County Executive should be a



Supervisor Cook with panelists from the Town Hall.

collaborative leader with experience managing large and diverse organizations.

- The panel, extremely complementary of County Executive Tony Griffin's leadership style, strongly urged the Board to hire an executive who would not accept the status quo, but seek to take the County to the next level. They urged The Board to seek a visionary, strategic thinker who would take a long term view of the opportunities presented to the County.

- The new County Executive should be committed to continuing the tradition of community involvement that is such an integral part of Fairfax County life.

- The new County Executive should be committed to transparency and keeping open communication with not only the community but county employees, the Board of Supervisors and School Board.

- The new County Executive should understand the important role economic growth plays in making Fairfax County so successful and should support efforts to attract businesses to Fairfax.

- The new County Executive should be dedicated to fiscal responsibility. Fairfax County's policies that led to its reputation as prudent and far-sighted in its financial management must be maintained.

In addition to Supervisor Cook's Town Hall, the County has created an online survey. You may go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cex/search/> and click on the survey button to voice your thoughts and ideas as to which qualities would be best in the next County Executive and what challenges and issues you believe this person will most likely face. The survey closes January 23. Supervisor Cook welcomes your continued input and your comments can be directed to Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Supervisor John C. Cook

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS:

Please continue to let us know about your successful Community Engagement efforts. Keep up the good work! Please call (703) 425-9300 or email Ann Sharp at ann.sharp@fairfaxcounty.gov with your latest information.

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BRADDOCK BEACON

If you would like the Braddock Beacon and the Cook Advisory electronically, instead of through mail, please contact us at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov and write "Beacon Subscribe" in the subject line.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT NOW ON FACEBOOK

Be sure to stay up to date on the Braddock District. See: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Burke-VA/Office-of-Braddock-Supervisor-John-C-Cook/113003565389251?ref=sgm>

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM SUPERVISOR COOK, LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD FOR BRADDOCK DISTRICT

Happy New Year!

The start of a new year, and a new term, is a good time to outline some goals and highlight oncoming issues for the year.

First, I have some changes on my team. My Chief of Staff, Ryan Kelly, relocated to Richmond, where he will be special assistant to the commissioner for VDOT and is planning a wedding this Spring. Ben Bush took another position here locally. I wish them both well and thank them for their service. I have promoted Kiel Stone to Chief of Staff and Kalia Sokos has joined us as a Staff Assistant for Communications.

Second, the hiring of the County Executive to succeed Tony Griffin, who retires in April, may be the most important decision the Board makes this term. The County Executive, while he may remain in the background, is the person who manages the County day-to-day, and Mr. Griffin leaves large shoes to fill.

Third, the County budget will be a challenge for the next several years. The County's financial staff has advised us that revenues will be relatively flat for the next three years. Given some unavoidable increased expenses, and the need to provide modest compensation increases to employees to keep up with competitors, we will need to continue to reduce program expenses in the coming years. This makes budgeting hard, but it is the result of a harsh recession and a prior decade of significant spending increases which we can no longer afford.

Fourth, providing the best possible constituent services will still be my top goal. My office is committed to making government work efficiently, effectively

and responsively. If you are having trouble getting a permit application reviewed, see tree branches on the sidewalk, have a cracked storm drain on your street, or otherwise have a concern with County government, please let us know. We are here to help.

Fifth, I am excited about my upcoming Citizen Governance Initiative. I want you to not only be engaged in your community, but to have a role in County governance. We will hold a Braddock visioning conference this Spring, so you can help us design a Land Use and Environmental Management Committee, an enhanced Budget Committee, a Community-Schools Committee, and whatever else you may think can help you have an active role in our government. Stay tuned for more details in the months to come.

Sixth, we are in the middle of a number of projects here in the District. The Kings Park West swimming pool will be dismantled this year, and a new community park created. Plans continue to redesign Monticello Park. The Burke Centre Pedestrian Task Force report is ready for the first steps of implementation. Engineering and design work on the Mason West Campus Connector Road will begin this year. University Mall renovation is almost ready to break ground. We will continue our efforts to improve the Braddock-Wakefield Chapel-Danbury Forest Drive intersection, and start planning to add a lane to Braddock Road between Guinea and Burke Lake Roads. We continue to address parking and traffic issues near Northern Virginia Community College, and George Mason

University will welcome its new president this year. We are beginning plans for a new initiative to serve the intellectually and developmentally disabled residents of our County, and a "village concept" pilot program to assist senior citizens.

Seventh, our County faces some major challenges that have been percolating on the back burner for awhile. We need to revisit our Tysons Corner development plan, passed two years ago. Already the demand for new development is exceeding the plan's limits. We need this development to attract business, create jobs and generate the tax revenue to pay for schools, police, fire, roads, parks, libraries and other services. We need a real County transportation plan that accepts the reality that the State is not meeting our transportation needs and the County must step up and do so or else our economic growth will stall. I will continue to press for a County takeover of our secondary road system, with additional County funding to fill potholes, repave cracked streets, sidewalks and storm drains and provide intersection and lane improvements.

There is a lot more happening in Fairfax County and in Braddock District. I look forward to working with you to make our government more effective, efficient, and responsive, and to provide for the economic growth we need to overcome our fiscal challenges. I hope you will join me as active, engaged citizens.



JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL FRIENDS OF SADIE BLOOD DRIVE

Friends of Sadie will be holding their 3rd Annual Blood Drive Sunday February 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Woods Community Center at 10100 Wards Grove Circle in Burke. This great organization was formed by mothers who were inspired by the courage of Sadie, a young girl with cancer who required frequent blood transfusions. They hope to educate the community on the importance of blood donations and raise funds and awareness for childhood cancer foundations. This is a family friendly event so please bring your children to participate in educational activities while parents are donating. For additional information about this great cause or to make an appointment please visit www.friendsofsadie.org



SUPERVISOR COOK IN THE COMMUNITY

On December 1st, Supervisor Cook hosted the Annual Taste of Braddock open house at the Braddock District office. The attendance this year was a record with over 300 people stopping by to say hello and to kick off their holiday season. A special thank you goes out to Chef Christine Gloninger from the Annandale High School Culinary Institute and her four students who helped set up, serve and then clean up. Of course, Taste of Braddock would never be a success if it weren't for the generosity of local restaurants in and around the Braddock District. The restaurants that participated were:

Aladdin's Eatery, Austin Grill, BBQ World, Best Deli, Big Bite, Brion's Grille, California Pizza Kitchen, Chesapeake Bagel Bakery, Chili's Bar and Grill, Chipotle, Coyote Grill, Edible Arrangements, Hunan West, Kilroy's, Magill's Famous Pizza, Milano's, Outback Steakhouse, Panera, Potbelly, San Vito's, Saxby's, Smith & Clarkson's Deli, Spartan's Family Restaurant, Uncle Julio's and Wegmans.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for December 6th, 2012 for this year's open house.

On December 2nd, Supervisor Cook took part in the Annandale Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which took place at Toll House Park. After the lighting, everyone joined their voices in singing some traditional carols. A joyful noise was made by all!

On December 3rd, Supervisor Cook participated in the Voices of Vietnamese Americans "Appreciation Day" event which was held at the Government Center.

On December 10th, Supervisor Cook and his family joined hundreds of Braddock residents to take a ride on the VRE Santa Train out of the Burke Centre VRE station. This is a wonderful holiday tradition that occurs the second Saturday of December. Tickets are required and go fast, so mark your calendar for the first Monday after Thanksgiving where you can come to our office and get yours.

On December 12th, Supervisor Cook was pleased to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Holiday Inn Express in Herndon. It's establishments like this that help make Fairfax County the business center of the State.



On December 13th, Supervisor Cook was sworn in to his second term as your Braddock District Supervisor. He appreciates your confidence and promises to continue to push forward with new initiatives for Braddock as well as continuing to serve all citizens of Fairfax County.



On December 18th, Supervisor Cook shared a little holiday cheer with the Fairfax County Fire Department and the Bonnie Brae community. Supervisor Cook dressed as Santa Claus and rode with the firemen through the neighborhood handing out candy to eager children.



On December 20th, Supervisor Cook stopped by the Pinn Center to participate in their seasonal potluck event to kick off the holidays.

GET ENGAGED: CONSIDER JOINING THE LIFETIME LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Leadership Fairfax and Volunteer Fairfax seek retirees who want to move their lives from “success to significance.” To help people recognize their potential in the second half of their lives, they have designed transition training for high-level volunteering and community engagement. This program empowers you to look at who you are in relation to your community-at-large, and encourages you to explore opportunities for civic awareness, community action and volunteer connections. The Lifetime Leadership Program (LLP) is based on the belief that retirees can offer a wealth of experience, leadership, and vitality to your communities while enriching your own lives.

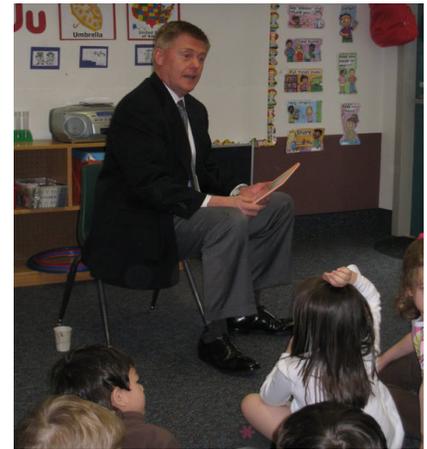
LLP is a partnership between Leadership Fairfax and Volunteer Fairfax, in collaboration with the Positive Aging Coalition, George Mason University, Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services and Area Agency on Aging. This 2-1/2 month program offers

five bi-weekly program days, providing an overview of ways to transition into your next life chapter and insight into the Fairfax County community and its needs.

You have a lifetime of accumulated skills, leadership and, now, you have time to direct those skills into actions that can make a real difference in your community. LLP is an ideal way for you to set the stage to convert your wealth of knowledge into meaningful volunteer roles. Let us show you how to translate your expertise from career to premiere. Individuals who have demonstrated a capacity for leadership, a record of community service (if any) and a willingness to commit time to the program are invited to apply. The cost of the program is \$500. For more information on dates and how to apply go to the following link: <http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/llp.php>

SUPERVISOR COOK ASSISTS IN CHILDREN’S BOOK DRIVE

Supervisor Cook will be collecting books for the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce’s Children’s Book Drive. Please bring books for children through sixth grade to Supervisor Cook’s Office starting Monday, February 13. The book drive will conclude Friday, April 6 and the books will be distributed to children in local elementary schools.



A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW STAFF ASSIGNMENTS TO THE BRADDOCK OFFICE

2012 brings a few changes to our office. We said goodbye to two staff members while adding one new face.

Departing us as of December 22nd was our Chief of Staff, Ryan Kelly. Ryan was the first person Supervisor Cook hired after his special election in 2009 and he did more than anyone to help mold the office into what it is now. He will be sorely missed as he has moved to Richmond to act as a Special Assistant to the Commissioner of VDOT. We also bid farewell to Ben Bush who was a Legislative Aide and has taken another job locally.

Joining the office is Kalia Sokos, who will be the Staff Assistant for Communications. Kalia is a longtime Fairfax County resident and holds a degree in Government and International Politics from George Mason University.

If you have a specific question for our staff, these are the assignments each person has.

Kiel Stone, Chief of Staff: Media Contacts, Boards & Commissions, Fairfax County Budget, Transportation Policy and Business Issues.

Rosemary Ryan, Senior Staff Assistant for Legislative Services: Land Use, Stormwater Management, Trash & Recycling, Senior Services, Environmental Issues and Facilities Management.

Ann Sharp, Senior Staff Assistant for Constituent Services: Braddock District Council (BDC), HOA’s and Civic Associations, George Mason University, Northern Virginia Community College, Zoning Complaints, Health Code Violations, Road Maintenance, Traffic Calming, Parking Districts, Utilities, Crime, and County History.

Lindsey Smith, Senior Staff Assistant for Administration: Scheduling, Office Management, Emergency Response, Braddock Neighborhood News,

Human Services, Information Technology, Park Issues, Animal Control, Website, Arts and Braddock Nights.

Kalia Sokos, Staff Assistant for Communications: Tax Issues, Senior & Veteran Tax Relief Programs, Braddock Beacon Newsletter, Electoral Issues, Website, Recognition and Correspondence, Outreach to Businesses, Community and Non-Profit Organizations.



ENVIRONMENTAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO HELP IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT IN FAIRFAX COUNTY!

Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council "2011 Annual Report on the Environment"

The Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC), appointed by the Board of Supervisors, advises the County on environmental matters and would like you to share your opinion on the state of the environment and help identify environmental issues applicable to the County. Issues considered by EQAC include water quality, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, solid waste, stream valley protection, wildlife management, light pollution, visual pollution, climate change response and adaptation, land use, transportation and the use and preservation of ecological resources.

EQAC presented its annual report to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Dec. 6. The "2011 Annual Report on the Environment" provides an overview of environmental conditions and programs in the county and offers recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The report covers 2010, but also includes significant actions from 2011.

EQAC's priority recommendations:

- Increase the Stormwater Service

District rate in FY 2013 by a penny, from a rate of 1.5 cents per \$100 assessed real estate value to 2.5 cents per \$100. This would provide more funding for modest watershed improvement programs and a somewhat more realistic infrastructure replacement timeline.

- Establish an Environmental Improvement Program projects fund similar to the Information Technology fund.
- Modify the Comprehensive Plan to better utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to integrate the latest Comprehensive Plan changes and make those changes accessible.

Other topics addressed by the report include climate change and energy; land use and transportation; air quality; water resources; solid waste; hazardous materials; ecological resources; wildlife management; and noise, light pollution and visual blight.

If you would like to read the 2011 Annual Report you will find it at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report2011.htm>.

Recycle in the New Year

Make a commitment to improving the environment starting in your own home. To find out more on how to start with a recycling service or what materials can be picked up visit the county site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/recycling/>. You can also subscribe to the monthly newsletter, The Fairfax Recycler which provides residents with information on Fairfax County recycling events and news items from the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program.



TIPS FOR A SAFER, GREENER WINTER SEASON

Give your home a tree

Fairfax County is in need of more trees planted on residential properties. This winter season, before the ground freezes, plant a tree on your property. For details on tree planting, care and benefits, contact a Fairfax County Urban Forester at 703-324-1770.

Keep storm drains free from leaves, snow & ice

Give rain, snow and ice melt somewhere to go during the fall and winter. Clogged storm drains lead to flooded and/or iced roadways. Bagging any remaining leaves or yard waste, and moving snow piles/drifts away from storm drains can make a big difference by keeping water flowing downstream.

Inspect & clean your chimney

Chimneys should be inspected annually and cleaned as necessary by a certified chimney sweep. If your chimney was damaged in the August earthquake, you should contact a licensed engineer or contractor to ensure that it is safe to use your stove or fireplace this fall and winter.

Can the grease

You can prevent sewer backups and overflows by pouring fats, oils and grease into a metal can or other container and adding an absorbent (like kitty litter or a paper towel). Throw the can in the trash when full.



MONTICELLO PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE: MOVING FORWARD IN THE NEW YEAR

In 2011, Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) kicked off an effort to develop the Monticello Park Master Plan looking to satisfy local community needs. FCPA heard many suggestions about future uses of the park at both a public information meeting held on April 4, 2011, and several subsequent working group meetings that include representatives from the communities surrounding the park. The meetings discussed a host of community needs, issues and concerns.

Using the input received in 2011 and additional site analysis, FCPA will continue the Monticello Park master planning process, looking to wrap up the planning process in the first half of 2012. A draft Master Plan will be posted in mid-January on the project website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/monticello.htm>.

This draft will be available for public review and comment that will shape the final draft to be submitted to the Park Authority Board for approval. Opportunities to provide input on the draft master plan will be available at a public meeting on February

27 at the Kings Park Library Meeting Room at the Braddock District Supervisor's office, located at 9002 Burke Lake Road. The snow date for this meeting will be February 29. Additional input on the draft plan can be provided following the meeting for 30 days. After the public input period is closed, comments and plan revisions will be considered prior to submitting the plan to the Park Authority Board for approval.

Upon Park Authority Board approval, implementation may be funded through various capital funding sources, such as sponsorships, partnerships and/or future year park bond referendums.

Comments and input can be sent via email to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please include "Monticello Park" in the subject line. You can also contact your Braddock District Representative to the FCPA, Anthony Vellucci at ajvellucci@gmail.com.

In concert with Supervisor's Cook's office, FCPA wishes to thank those who have participated in this planning process so far as well as the working group which yielded the collection and collation of many community issues and concerns.

ELECTRIC SUNDAYS CALENDAR FOR 2012

Fairfax County residents can recycle televisions, computers and peripheral devices – including keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives and other such materials – and unbroken fluorescent light bulbs and tubes on Electric Sundays. There is no charge for Fairfax County residents to participate in Electric Sunday; however, they may be required to show proof of residency. This year's Electric Sunday events are scheduled monthly through November. All events are held from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

- Jan. 29: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
- Feb. 26: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
- Mar. 25: I-95 Landfill Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton, VA 22079
- Apr. 29: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
- May 20: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
- Jun. 24: I-95 Landfill Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton, VA 22079
- Jul. 22: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
- Aug. 26: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
- Sept. 23: I-95 Landfill Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton, VA 22079
- Oct. 21: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
- Nov. 18: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030

COUNTYWIDE BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN

BURKE/SPRINGFIELD OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 24, 5:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

What streets and roads need to be bicycle-friendly? Where should there be on-road bike lanes, off-road trails, and/or other approaches? Where are the difficult or unsafe locations to bicycle? How can cycling be made safer for young people or novice cyclists? How can cycling for short trips, like running errands, shopping, or going to the park or playground become a more attractive alternative?

The Open House, being held at the Springfield Government Center Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road on January 24, 2012 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., will allow you to ask these questions of county representatives and other interested individuals who are working toward making Fairfax County more bicycle friendly. The committee is looking for suggestions from residents who'd like to have a say in how our future bicycling needs might be met.

A presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. for anyone who would like hear about the entire plan. For those who cannot attend the presentation, we encourage you to stop by, take a look at the information that will be available, and ask questions. You will also be able to give your input anytime throughout the evening.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT LAND USE UPDATES FOR JANUARY

• **A Community Information Meeting** was held at the Springfield Government Center on January 17 on a proposal by Edens, the owner of the shopping center, to place a free standing **TD Bank in the parking lot of Cardinal Forest Plaza** at the corner of Rolling Road and Old Keene Mill Road. Residents from affected communities asked questions of the developer and county staff regarding potential traffic impacts and whether adequate parking would remain. Both the Braddock and Springfield Planning Commissioners listened to the lively discussion which will come before them at a public hearing on May 3. The developer agreed to provide additional information which will be shared with the participants. Individuals wishing to be kept apprised of changes to this application should email Braddock@fairfax-county.gov.

• **A Public Hearing** is now scheduled for **February 9 before the Planning Commission** on a proposal by Ridge-wood Commercial Owners Association (RZ/FDP 2011-SP-014 concurrent with PCA 2005-SP-019) to construct **39 townhouses and a small office building** on 3.8 acres on Government Center Parkway near its intersection with Ridgetop Road. The meeting will begin at 8:15 p.m. This project is part of the Fairfax Center District and will complete a mixed-use project that is part of a larger 18 acre parcel, much of

which has already been built or is under construction. A staff report will be published January 26, and, if recommended by the Planning Commission, the proposal will come to the **Board of Supervisors** for a second public hearing on **February 28**.

• **A Public Hearing before the Planning Commission** will be held on **January 26** on the proposal by the City of Fairfax and its contract purchaser, Madison Homes, to amend the Comprehensive Plan to convert the allowed use for the old **Eleven Oaks School** site from public/institutional to residential use at a density of 5-8 homes per acre. The proposal places a denser number of single family homes on the west side of George Mason Boulevard, matching the density of the Fairfax Gateway townhouse community, and lower density on the east side of the parcel. This parcel is surrounded on two sides by Fairfax City and on one side by George Mason University. If recommended by the Planning Commission, this project will also be the subject of a Public Hearing before the Board of Supervisors on February 28. The staff report is now published.

• An application has been filed by **Fairfax County Public Schools (PRC-C-546-2)** to enlarge **Terra Centre Elementary School** by approximately 20,000 square feet. The proposal would add a library, kindergarten, a lobby and classrooms. The project will also include an expanded kiss

and ride drop off area, a new ADA access to the upper play fields and expanded hard surface play area. The project is tentatively scheduled for a public hearing on April 18, 2012.

For copies of these applications, or to get more information or links to staff reports, please call my office or email Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

• **Construction will begin shortly on two residential housing projects** in the Burke area of Braddock District. A nine house subdivision of single family homes at **Burke Lake Road and Shipplett Blvd.** now has an approved site plan and has posted its bonds. A preconstruction conference was held last week, and contractors were on site January 14. A second project on **Steamboat Landing Lane** will also commence work in mid-January. The approved site plan allows construction of three single family homes in the Landings community of Burke Centre. A meeting with affected neighbors will be held this week.

• **7651 Royston Street Blight Abatement Demolition.** All plans have been approved internally by Fairfax County which is currently waiting on clearance from VDOT. Once that is received, the contractor will post a bond with the county and demolition of this structure can, at long last, be completed.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE BELTWAY TRAVEL

Fluor Lane expects to complete the new 495 HOT Lanes in late 2012. They will follow Federal guidelines and the HOT Lanes will now formally be called Express Lanes, and will provide new options for travel on the Capital Beltway. To get the most benefit from these changes, the company wants to make sure you know how the Express Lanes will work and where they will go. This will allow you to take advantage of the improvements as soon as the lanes open.

The new site will help you understand how the Express Lanes can improve your Beltway travel, learn how to use the new Express Lanes and plan your route. To sign up for information as it becomes available, go to the following link: <http://www.495expresslanes.com/coming-soon>

