

January 2008 with a motion, jointly with Supervisor Frey, to have the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors endorse the concept of opening the ramps. VDOT supported the effort all along the way but the proposal ran into trouble with FHWA which was requiring additional expensive studies. I enlisted the help of Congressman Wolf and he was able to get the attention of FHWA and obtain their approval. Governor Bob McDonnell, Delegate Jim LeMunyon and Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton also strongly supported the effort.

Currently, the Monument Drive and Stringfellow Road ramps are open only to HOV-2 traffic eastbound from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and westbound from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The ramps are closed to traffic during off-peak hours and weekends.

Beginning Feb. 28, at 10:00AM the ramps will be open to all westbound traffic except during HOV hours. New overhead digital message signs will alert drivers as to when the exit ramps are OPEN, CLOSED or HOV-ONLY. Traffic signs and signals at the top of the exit ramps have been upgraded and traffic signals near the interchanges will be retimed to accommodate traffic.

Opening the ramps to all traffic during non-HOV hours will:

- Improve travel times and air quality;
- Provide alternate routes for motorists avoiding the construction work zone at Fairfax County Parkway and Fair Lakes where the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is building an interchange through 2013; and,
- Give buses and motorists direct access to the Stringfellow Road park-and-ride lot.

VDOT traffic engineers project that up to 5,800 vehicles a day will use the Stringfellow Road ramp and 2,400 vehicles a day will use the Monument Drive ramp. The project cost was approximately \$200K.

Since taking office in 2008, I have been leading an effort for short and long term solutions to I-66 congestion including:

- Extending HOV and shoulder lane hours. This was accomplished in 2008,
- Opening of the Stringfellow and Monument ramps. These are now set to open on February 28, 2011,
- Opening of shoulder lanes outside of HOV hours anytime there is congestion. This has been included in the active transit management project as a part of Governor Bob McDonnell's transportation package so I hope we are close to implementation of this commonsense short term solution to congestion during non HOV hours, and
- Resuming the I-66 Multimodal Study that will be the first step to a long term solution in the I-66 corridor. The study was started in the late 1990's but was stopped in 2004 and no progress was being made despite existing funding. The Board supported my motion in 2008 to ask VDOT to restart the study and thanks to Secretary Connaughton the study is underway.

These and other I-66 solutions were the subject of a town hall meeting sponsored by Supervisor Herrity, Supervisor Frey and Congressman Wolf in April 2010. [Click here to see](#)

[Herrity Report on the Town Hall](#). I am excited about the progress we have made but there is much more work to be done to address congestion on I-66.

Arlington's Roadblocks to Traffic Relief

[See my editorial in Sunday's Washington Post](#) decrying Arlington's efforts to halt relief on I-66 inside the Beltway and I-395.

Fairfax County Parkway Safety Meeting

Due to the number of crossover fatalities on the Fairfax County Parkway, Delegate Albo and I requested VDOT perform a safety study. The study has been completed and the results and recommendations will be presented at a Community Meeting on February 23rd at 6:30PM in Supervisor Cook's Community Room at 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015. This will be covered in a future Herrity Report.

Public Hearing on Purchase of Waste to Energy Facility (Incinerator)

My opposition to this risky \$417.5 million dollar purchase is well documented. [Click here for Herrity Report on my position](#). I pushed for a full and open public hearing before all of the Supervisors. The public hearing will be February 22 at 4:30 PM in the Board Auditorium at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035. [To sign up to speak at the public hearing click here](#). The link will also provide you the guidelines for speaking - time limit, etc.

