



HERRITY REPORT



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My First 30 Days in Office

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- **Popes Head Road/Fairfax County Parkway Signal Timing**
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- **Board of Supervisors Declare May 29th to June 1st Springfield Days in Fairfax County**
- **Request to Homeowner and Civic Associations**
- **Meet my Staff**

Communication is important to me. *The Herry Report* is one vehicle to keep you up to date on what I am doing on your behalf. We will be announcing additional communications efforts—town hall meetings, office on wheels, etc.—shortly. I believe communication is a two-way street. I encourage your feedback on the items in the newsletter or other thoughts that concern you.

It is hard to believe I have only been in office for 30 days. In addition to getting staff in place, moving into the office and the many, many meetings and briefings, I have tried to move forward an agenda for Springfield District. As you will see below, my initial focus has been on transportation and the pending budget process.

Herry Proposes Budget Transparency Measure

Have you ever tried to figure out where all the money goes in Fairfax County? Currently, the county makes all of the information available but you would have to spend hours poring through documents to find out how much Fairfax County spends on any given item. The fact that this information is not readily accessible is a problem that needed to be addressed.

At the January 28, 2008 Board meeting I introduced a motion to create an online budget and expenditure database that will give all of Fairfax County's taxpayers a simple and easy way to examine how and where their tax dollars are being spent. The Board instructed county staff to investigate the cost of this measure as well as how we would implement it and is due to report back to us at the March 8th county budget workshop. For more information, read the press release (pdf format).

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/budget_database_press_release.pdf

Citizens' Budget Review Committee: Up and Running

The Citizens' Budget Review Committee is up and running after two strategy sessions. If you have an interest in serving on a subcommittee, please contact Christian Deschauer at 703-451-8873. The budget is due to be released on February 25th and I will be holding citizen budget briefings with county staff in March. The vision and goals of this Committee are as follows:

The Citizens Budget Review Committee (Committee) will employ a common sense approach towards examining how taxpayer dollars are being collected and spent for Fairfax County government and school services. The Committee will apply principles of accountability, customer focus, and prioritization with a goal of reinvigorating government into a more efficient user of precious taxpayer dollars.

- Review the role and priorities of the Fairfax County Government
- Develop near-term recommendations for action to close the budget shortfall
- Challenge Fairfax County government leaders to embrace long-term planning activities
- Help to ensure that citizens have a government keenly focused on the taxpayers' interests

Short Term Improvements on I-66

Beginning as early as April, VDOT will be opening the shoulder lanes on I-66 an extra hour during both the morning and evening weekday commutes. During the morning rush, the lanes will be open until 11 a.m.; in the evening, the lanes will open an hour earlier, at 2 p.m. I have asked VDOT to study the opening of the shoulder lanes on weekends during periods of congestion. I also expressed my support for the opening of the slip ramps at Monument Drive and Stringfellow Road during non-HOV hours to improve access to this part of the district—as long as it can be implemented safely. At its January 28 meeting, the Board approved sending a letter to VDOT on behalf of the entire Board of Supervisors in support of these initiatives. For more information, read the joint board matter Supervisor Michael Frey and I presented on these issues on my website at

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/i66_shoulder_hov_ramps.pdf. Long term improvements to I-66 will be a subject of a future Herry Report.

Popes Head Road/Fairfax County Parkway Signal Timing

There is a special timing program at the intersection of Popes Head Road and the Fairfax County Parkway to guarantee 180 seconds of green time for southbound Parkway traffic from 4 to 7 p.m. There is congestion at this location because it is the first intersection after Interstate 66 and because there is a high traffic demand from the north on the Parkway. I asked VDOT what could be done to alleviate the congestion at this intersection. VDOT has informed me they will start the special timing program an hour earlier, at 3 p.m. Based on a recent volume count, this change was warranted and has now been implemented. A long term fix for this intersection is still being investigated.

Rolling Road/Barnack Drive Signal Update

If all goes well, the new signal at Rolling Road and Barnack Drive should be powered by February 8th. Many thanks go to Delegate Dave Albo and former Supervisor Elaine McConnell, as well as the West Springfield Village community for getting the serious safety problem at this intersection addressed.

We Need Your Input on Transportation Spot Improvements

The new NVRTA funding reserves a percentage of the revenues for county spot improvements. Spot improvements are small changes such as turn lanes or traffic signals that can have a significant impact on congestion. I have a few ideas, but would appreciate any proposals or suggestions you might have for consideration. Please contact Peyton Onks with your suggestions at Peyton.Onks@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Working Towards West Springfield High School Renovation and South County Middle School Construction

Two items of concern often brought to my attention as I went door to door before the election were the need for renovation of West Springfield High School (WSHS) and the need for a Middle School for South County.

On January 9th, I was the first Supervisor in recent memory to testify at a Fairfax County Public Schools CIP public hearing and did so in support of both of these projects because I feel the need for them is immediate. Liz Bradsher, the Springfield District School Board member, has been doing outstanding work to bring these projects to fruition sooner than later.

As a 1978 graduate of WSHS, I am concerned about what I've seen and heard regarding the conditions of this legacy school. At this point in time, the school's renovation is not on the FCPS CIP through 2018. I believe the WSHS Community deserves better than this and I am working with the School Board to get this placed on the 2009-2013 CIP.

The construction of a Middle School for South County must start no later than 2012. There is already a current need for this school, and with the imminent surge of new residents, both military and support staff, coming to the area as a result of Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC), construction of a middle school for the area is an absolute necessity. At its January 24 business meeting, the School Board amended the CIP to include the planning of the middle school. The School Board also directed the Superintendent to look into the concept of a "rolling renovation" schedule for several schools, including West Springfield High School.

If you would like to read the testimony I presented on January 9th, visit my website at the following link: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/fcps_cip_comments_1-9-08.pdf (pdf format).

Navigating the Winston Knolls Community Sign through a Maze of County Requirements

If it isn't up by the time you are reading this, the new community sign for Winston Knolls should be completed soon. Because the new sign will be located on Park Authority property, it was necessary to negotiate a maze of county requirements. Peyton Onks on my staff was able to assist Winston Knolls President, Bonnie Olsen, and the sign committee through these hurdles. View my webpage on this story for more information:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/WK_Sign_article.pdf (pdf format).

Ensuring Reliable Electric Power in 2011

On January 14, 2008, I testified before the State Corporation Commission in support for the 500kv Meadowbrook-Loudoun transmission line proposed by Dominion Virginia Power. The SCC's consultant concluded that rolling blackouts in Northern Virginia are possible as soon as 2011 without the transmission line. I, along with a number of citizens and businesses in this region, stepped forward to support the line which will ensure reliable energy needed to sustain Northern Virginia's economy and quality of life. [My testimony is available online](#) (pdf format) at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/pdf_files/scc_statement.pdf.

Recognition of Elaine McConnell's Service

provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call [Christian Deschauer](#), Supervisor Herrity's Senior Legislative Aide at 703-451-8873, TTY 411.