

## **Response to Questions on the FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan**

**Request By:** Supervisor Gross

**Question:** Why does the County have to put retaining walls in with its sidewalk projects?

**Response:** The majority of the County's sidewalk projects are in existing, well-established neighborhoods. In order to minimize property impacts, avoid utility relocations, etc., retaining walls are sometimes required. Many times retaining walls preserve existing trees, maximize flat lawn space, and provide more useable lawn space. Retaining walls are costly and the County only installs them where necessary for the successful completion of the project. It should also be noted that County sidewalks are designed to meet the Public Facilities Manual (PFM) design standards, VDOT design standards, and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements to the extent practicable. ADA has very specific requirements for sidewalk grades and cross-slopes, which in certain cases may require a retaining wall for compliance.