

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Fairfax County Board of Supervisors 2511 Parkers Lane Mount Vernon, VA 22306



Telephone: (703) 780-7518 E-mail: mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov

5th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon

Background

Mr. Chairman, it's that time of the year again. We are approaching the 5th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon. Given the difficulties of the COVID-19 Pandemic, I am hoping a safe, 35 mile community bike ride will be a welcome relief. The ride will take place on Saturday, October 3rd. We are planning to be in the Southern portion of the Mount Vernon District again, beginning and ending at the Workhouse Arts Center. We will ride to see Gunston Hall, Mason Neck State Park, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Occoquan Regional Park, the National Museum of the US Army, and Fort Belvoir for the 2nd year in a row. This event sure has come a long way with the help of our partner, Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling. I also want to thank FCDOT and Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives for all their support. This event is focused on encouraging community members to explore the many of the treasures of the Mount Vernon District.

We are offering two routes this year, so that riders of all levels are welcome. Additional information and the registration portal can be found by visiting the Mount Vernon District webpage.

Proposed Action

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Public Affairs to advertise the 2020 Tour de Mount Vernon.

Attachment

Tour de Mount Vernon 2020

Saturday, October 3, 2020

Join Mount Vernon District **Supervisor Dan Storck and FABB** for the 5th **Annual Tour** *de* **Mount Vernon**.

Beginning and ending at Workhouse Arts Center, the ride will take a scenic tour of the Mount Vernon District.

Join us on for the long ride at 35 miles or enjoy the 20 mile short ride.

The ride will begin at 8:30am and will conclude with food, beverages, music and prizes!

Ride Highlights Include:

Workhouse Arts Center Fort Belvoir Pohick Bay Regional Park Gunston Hall Occoquan Regional Park

For more information and to register go to:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon













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Authorization to Provide Letter of Support for Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Application to the Federal Railroad Administration State of Good Repair Program for Newington Road Rail Bridge (Attachment 1) (Mount Vernon District)

Joint Board Matter with Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Rodney Lusk

July 28, 2020

DRPT has been working on additional rail tracks on the CSX rail line as part of a larger effort to improve mobility along the I-95/I-395 Corridor, which has been known as Atlantic Gateway. Part of this effort includes expanding rail capacity on certain bridges in Fairfax County, including the rail bridge at Newington Road.

In 2016, the Board of Supervisors sent a letter to then-Secretary Aubrey L. Layne, Jr. with comments on the Atlantic Gateway project (Attachment 2). The letter included language stating that the Board believed the current rail bridge over Newington Road must be addressed. Original plans called for a new bridge to be provided for the new track, but that the exiting rail bridge would remain. The letter noted concerns, since the bridge clearance would be more than two feet less than the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standard criterion of 16.5 feet. Further, the existing bridge has deteriorated and was in need of replacement. Lastly, Newington is only a one-lane underpass. For these reasons, the letter asserted the Board's belief that project should replace the current bridge or, at the very least, include efforts to lower the roadway to improve clearance issues.

DRPT and VDOT have worked with the County on these and other issues related to Atlantic Gateway and intend to apply for Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) State of Good Repair Program funding for the Newington Road project, which will address the County's noted concerns. The project consists of full replacement of the existing two-track span as well as construction of a new two-track span to the east. This will bring the horizontal clearances of the roadway undercrossing up to modern VDOT standards and accommodate a future third passenger track. The Commonwealth has requested a letter of support from the County for this application.

Therefore, I move that the Board approve the attached letter to the United States Secretary of Transportation noting support of the Newington Road Bridge Project Application for (FRA) State of Good Repair funding.



COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035 Suite 530 12000 GOVERNMENT CENTER PARKWAY FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035-0071

> TELEPHONE 703- 324-3151 FAX 703- 324-3955

> chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

JEFFREY C. MCKAY CHAIRMAN

July 28, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao Secretary of Transportation U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, DC 20590

Reference: Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Federal Railroad Administration State (FRA) of Good Repair Application: Newington Road

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express support for the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) application for funding through the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) State of Good Repair Program for the Newington Road project.

The Newington Road project is located on the CSX rail line in Fairfax County. The additional third railway track that is being constructed as part of the Atlantic Gateway project requires full replacement of the existing two-track span as well as construction of a new two-track span to the east at Newington Road. The current rail bridge at Newington Road only allows space for a one-lane underpass, and the existing clearance is more than two feet less than the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standard clearance criterion of 16.5 feet. This project will bring the horizontal clearances of the roadway undercrossing up to modern VDOT standards and accommodate both a future third passenger track, and yard lead track for the CSX Fort Belvoir spur. The County's Comprehensive Plan recommends that Newington Road be upgraded to a four-lane roadway with a shared use path and sidewalk to improve multimodal mobility and this project also helps to address that need.

This project is essential to the rail project and improved capacity of those that use the rail line, including freight, Amtrak, and the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail service. However, this project will also improve connectivity for mass transit and residents in the area. Garages for the County's Fairfax Connector and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrobus transit systems are located near the bridge crossing, but clearance issues within the tunnel have resulted in buses having to utilize a more indirect way to reach their bus routes. Additionally, the fact that Newington Road has only a one-lane underpass at this location further restricts movement of all users of the roadway. Accommodating a four-lane roadway with bicycle and pedestrian facilities will improve multimodal mobility. Further, the larger project being undertaken

The Honorable Elaine Chao July 28, 2020 Page 2 of 2

by DPRT and the Commonwealth will help address the need for multimodal capacity improvements in the I-95/I-395 Corridor, which is amongst the most congested corridors in the nation.

Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia region have provided significant funding for other major transportation improvements that provide benefits beyond the County, Northern Virginia, and the National Capital Region, and we believe that it is vital that the Commonwealth and federal government invest in these types of projects as well. A State of Good Repair Grant would help address this need and will greatly facilitate construction of this project. We thank you for your consideration of DRPT's application.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey McKay Chairman

cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Jennifer Mitchell, Director, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Bryan J. Hill, County Executive
Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Executive
Jill G. Cooper, Assistant County Executive

Tom Biesiadny, Director, Fairfax County Department of Transportation



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Proclaim August 2020 as Women's Suffrage Month in Fairfax County Joint with Chairman McKay

July 28, 2020

On July 2, 2020, the U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan resolution designating this August as National Women's Suffrage Month, as America celebrates the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted American women the right to vote.

As we prepare for the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote on August 26, 2020, we want to shine the spotlight on the importance of women's suffrage and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Women were not included in the Constitution until the 19th Amendment and the ratification of the 19th Amendment led to the largest single one-day increase of potential voters in the history of the United States.

When it comes to women's fight for equality, much of this history resides right here in Fairfax County. Our schoolbooks rarely mention that the suffragist movement lasted 72 years or include the story of the scores of suffragists who were imprisoned at Lorton in 1917 for picketing the White House and demanding the right to vote. These women were arrested, tried, convicted and imprisoned for terms up to seven months. They were force-fed, locked in solitary confinement and brutalized. When word leaked out about this unconscionable treatment, President Wilson was forced to ask Congress to consider a Constitutional Amendment.

Twenty-five million women entered the Constitution and secured the right to vote with a stroke of the pen. Absent this fight for citizenship, women would not have been able to advance in education, employment, wealth, civil rights, business ownership and even parental rights! Still there is much work to be done in these areas to improve the lives of women. Suffrage was a full-fledged political reform effort that took five generations of activism and commitment to achieve. The movement had its own philosophers, generals, organizers, foot soldiers, and writers – just as Virginia's modern campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment has done today.

Sadly, though women were written into the Constitution with the right to vote finally in 1920, they still do not have full equality under the law. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) gives women and men full equality under the law. This year, Virginia's General Assembly finally passed this important legislation, becoming the 38th and final state needed to ratify the ERA. We are grateful for the efforts of all the grassroots volunteers of VAratifyERA, Virginia's nonpartisan, statewide campaign whose singular mission was to put our Commonwealth on the right side of history and see the ERA over the finish line. Unfortunately, many experts and advocates acknowledge legal uncertainty as to whether the amendment will be ratified. The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association has broken ground on a memorial to women with 19 education stations in Occoquan Regional Park.

The memorial was set to be dedicated on the centennial anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment, August 26th, 2020. Unfortunately, COVID-19 and other impediments have delayed construction, and this will not happen. This location is part of the historic DC prison grounds where scores of suffragists aged 19 to 73 were illegally imprisoned. It is here that a critical part of women's history will finally be illuminated so that we can continue to educate, inspire and empower present and future generations to remain vigilant in the quest for liberty, freedom and equality.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment, I will be hosting a socially-distanced, masks required, community celebration of the Year of the Woman on August 26, 2020. More details to follow. The Workhouse Arts Center, which also had to postpone the Grand Opening of the Lucy Burns Museum in May due to COVID is also planning several recognitions, including a Girl Scout Gold Award project about the suffrage story directly from the Lucy Burns Museum. Organized by Emma Skog, an event called "100 Years Later: How Women Got the Right to Vote" will be for Scouts of all ages. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic activities will be entirely online and scouts who complete the project will receive a specially designed patch. More details are available on the Workhouse website.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I ask, with unanimous consent that a proclamation be prepared with the Chair's and my signatures designating August Women's Suffrage Month in Fairfax County. I also ask that the Office of Public Affairs publicize information in recognition of this month and the August 26 celebration.



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Fairfax Green Initiatives #2 (FGI #2)

July 28, 2020

On February 5, 2019, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted my Fairfax Green Initiatives (FGI) Joint Board Matter with Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor John Foust. The FGI took a decisive step forward to take action to mitigate climate change impacts on our community. Many of those actions have been initiated, with some even complete. FGI #2 is a follow-on motion based on our individual discussions over the last few months and discussion at last week's Environment Committee meeting. It proposes additional targets and actions the County can take to advance critical environmental issues even more quickly.

THEREFORE, Mr. Chairman, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD support the following actions to accelerate Board consideration and action:

1. Direct DPWES to:

A. Research and report to the Environment Committee on the options for expanding our existing internal County compost pilot to the community as part of our trash/recycling services or drop off locations. Options to be considered could include partnering with Arlington or Prince William, like with our purple bins – placing "green" compost bins beside purple bins; collections at Farmers Markets, FCPS locations, libraries and community centers; collecting, selling and/or giving away compost materials at the I-95 Landfill Complex & I-66 Transfer Station. In addition, work with other County agencies to provide community education on backyard composting at community centers, libraries and RECenters.

2. Direct County Executive to:

- A. Update the vehicle purchasing policy to accelerate purchases of County electric vehicles for the fleet of eligible sedans and expand the County's charging infrastructure to support additional electric vehicles. 100% of eligible vehicles scheduled for purchase in FY 2021 shall be replaced with electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed can be supported in FY 2021.
- B. Direct staff to return to the Board with a schedule to accelerate the replacement of vehicles and infrastructure to support these vehicles, with the associated investment required, before the end of calendar year 2020 to inform the FY 2022 Budget.
- C. Direct Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) to find immediate solutions to charging infrastructure, such as upgrading existing electrical outlets in County garages to accommodate plug in EV's, and to adapt purchasing practices to new goal.

- 3. Direct County Attorney to report to the Environment Committee on whether the County can provide incentives for consumer EV purchases, vehicles and charging stations, or similar kinds of energy reduction or efficiency investments; or what legislative changes might be necessary to do so.
- 4. Direct the OEEC to provide a plan to the Environment Committee for consideration to implement a 5-cent plastic bag fee in 2021, as now allowed by law.
- 5. Direct the Facilities Management Department to assess and report to the Environment Committee costs and process to phase out all existing hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerators, refrigerant cases and air conditioners from all County facilities and equipment purchases as soon as practical but no later than 2030, including ensuring proper disposal and recovery of gasses and materials. Where comparably performing non-HFC products are available, effective in 2021, all new purchases would not contain HFC.
- 6. Refer to the Land Use Policy Committee for consideration:
 - A. Requiring energy use disclosures on residential home sales. Direct County Attorney to provide legal review for considerations.
 - B. Directing Department of Planning and Development to evaluate and report to the Land Use Policy Committee on further strengthening the County's Comprehensive Plan policy regarding provisions for EV ready or EV infrastructure during the rezoning process in private parking facilities.
 - C. Directing Department of Planning and Development and the County Attorney to provide a report analyzing requirements and impediments for new commercial construction and incentives for new residential construction to incorporate community solar and/or geothermal systems in project planning.
 - D. Directing Department of Planning and Development to provide a report for ways to encourage and incentivize developers and builders in the County to adopt or accelerate residential and commercial green building practices. For example, create a green building profile that builders and developers can receive a rating on their green building practices.
- 7. Direct County Executive to report to the Environment Committee:
 - A. The feasibility of creating an Energy Efficiency Funding Pool (EEFP) pilot. Consider potential Public Private Partnerships (PPP), existing non-profit housing partnerships and other energy efficiency focused organizations to provide a competitive grant process for funding local entities to provide workforce energy efficiency and weatherization (green jobs) training opportunities while upgrading the energy efficiency on eligible low-income and seniors homes.
 - B. The feasibility of creating a Fairfax Green Bank.
- 8. Direct County Executive and County Attorney to report to the Board on the feasibility and legality of providing guidance to Fairfax County retirement fund managers to increase

support for non-greenhouse gas emitting energy investments, local green business investments and decreasing those in fossil fuels.