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July 19, 2022

**Joint Board Matter with Chairman McKay
and Supervisor Alcorn
Blake Lane Safety**

Members of the Board,

As you are aware, a tragic crash occurred at the corner of Five Oaks Rd and Blake Lane on June 7th. The event took the lives of two Oakton High School students and injured a third--three friends who were walking home from school together. As of Thursday, June 23rd, the driver responsible for the double fatal crash was indicted on two counts of involuntary manslaughter and turned himself in. This is the second bicyclist/pedestrian crash along this corridor in two years, and we know there have been other near misses.

Since the pedestrian crash in this corridor last year, there have been many improvements made, such as the installation of 30 pedestrian warning signs that highlight the presence of pedestrians, the installation of a high visibility crosswalk across Blake Lane at Kingsbridge Drive, a leading pedestrian interval at Blake Lane/Sutton Road to delay the green light for vehicles, and the addition of high visibility backplates to traffic signal heads. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) also evaluated the intersection at Hibbard and Blake Lane for a traffic signal, though it is not currently warranted, "Additional \$200 Fine" for

speeding signs have been installed from Rt 123 to Sutton Rd, and through truck traffic has been restricted. FCDOT is also currently finalizing the scope for a Crosswalk Improvement Project at the intersection with Bushman Drive and, more immediately, in the final steps of requesting additional VDOT signage through the Residential Traffic Administration Program (RTAP).

In an effort to further improve safety in this corridor, I hosted a community meeting on June 23rd that included over 300 community members, the Chairman, our State representatives, VDOT, FCDOT, the Fairfax County Police Department, and Fairfax County Public Schools to discuss current concerns, as well as possible safety improvements along the Blake Lane Corridor.

We recognize that the work to improve safety along Blake Lane will involve short-, mid-, and long-term strategies. To ensure that we continue the momentum necessary, I am convening advisory groups for the community and for staff. The focus of the staff group will be on pedestrian safety and tracking potential improvements that can be implemented in the corridor. The community group will support the continued engagement and communication with residents across the entirety of this corridor and help with reviews of the improvements proposed by staff. One immediate next step for both groups will include a road safety audit of the corridor.

Another short-term request that has come from the community is related to the “Know Your Speed” sign that was posted immediately following the crash. These signs, that are currently limited in supply and moved to different locations across the county, were deployed to Blake Lane immediately following the crash, and were very much appreciated by the community. They have now been, understandably,

rotated to another site. With a larger inventory of these devices, we could serve more communities for longer periods of time, but I am interested in the staff assessment of this idea.

I therefore move, without objection, that we request staff to provide information and recommendations on purchasing additional speed devices so that we have more capacity countywide to use these effective deterrents to speed. In addition, we ask that the topic of pedestrian safety be placed on a future agenda of the transportation committee so the staff and the board can discuss options for continued improvements.