



May 2010 “A Month in Review”

*****SPECIAL NOTE: Internet Safety Town Hall on Thursday, June 10th, 7:30 PM at Woodson High School (see below for more details)**

- **Keeping Our Economic Engine Healthy and Running Strong** - The Board of Supervisors will soon have before it one of the most critical land use decisions it will make in a long time – the Comprehensive Plan for Tysons Corner. Every citizen should be watching it closely as it will have a profound effect on the future of Fairfax County.
- **Internet Safety Town Hall** – On Thursday June 10th, 2010 Supervisor John Cook and I will hold a town hall focused on educating, equipping and empowering people with the knowledge and resources needed to protect the children under their care from online dangers.
- **Problems with Phase 3 of the Fairfax County Parkway Project** – Construction is well underway for the final 2 mile section of the Fairfax County Parkway through the Engineering Proving Ground. There is a significant issue with the existing one-lane ramp from NB Rolling Road to NB/WB Fairfax County Parkway which must be fixed.
- **Moving Forward on the Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes Parkway Interchange Project** – After a lot of hard work and problem solving the project finally went to advertisement for construction bids on May 25th!
- **Upcoming Events**
 - **Springfield Days!**

Springfield Days, a community wide celebration that takes place the weekend after Memorial Day each year in the heart of Springfield, is this weekend (June 3-6). For a schedule of events please see the Springfield Days website <http://www.springfielddays.com/>

Keeping Our Economic Engine Healthy and Running Strong

The Board of Supervisors will soon have before it one of the most critical land use decisions it will make in a long time – the Comprehensive Plan for Tysons Corner. Every citizen should be watching it closely as it will have a profound effect on the future of Fairfax County. Tysons Corner is the economic engine of the County and it is critical that the Board of Supervisors adopt a plan that keeps the engine healthy and running strong. Without a strong commercial tax base it would be next to impossible for us to provide the high quality services the people of Fairfax County expect and deserve.

Everyone agrees that a significant investment in infrastructure is needed to make Tyson's work and chief among those needs are transportation improvements. There has been a flurry of discussion and press on the recently released financing plan for these transportation improvements. A mix of financing options will be considered including the appropriate allocation for the public and private sectors both within Tysons Corner and across the County. In order to move forward and make a decision on who is going to pay for what, we need a good understanding of the cost burden we are planning to place on our developers.

In the proposed Tysons plan we have asked developers and landowners to fund a significant amount of public amenities and goods. For example, we are asking them to fund affordable housing, increased environmental protections, public art, increased open space, significant stormwater improvements, public parks, public buildings and other requirements. These requirements are largely built into the plan and will be paid for by landowners and ultimately paid for by the businesses that locate in Tysons Corner.

I have many concerns with the plan currently on the table. One is whether the costs of the improvements can be absorbed by the future projects in Tysons and still be competitive with surrounding business areas. Another issue with the plan is that I am concerned that we have tried to solve too many problems on the backs of landowners without addressing what should be one of the top funding priorities– transportation.

Accordingly I have asked County staff to determine the estimated cost of the improvements currently in the plan so that we can properly set priorities knowing the cost of each. This priority setting needs to be done before we ask citizens and/or businesses across the county to fund Tysons Corner transportation requirements.

We also need to understand the cost of these requirements and their impact on the competitiveness of Tysons Corner. The last thing we need to do is discourage redevelopment in Tysons Corner. At a time when we are seeking to expand our

commercial base and encourage economic development and job growth in this area, we must be mindful of creating additional burdens on those businesses that can help us achieve our goals.

Internet Safety Town Hall Meeting

Town hall to be held on Thursday June 10th, 7:30 PM at W.T. Woodson High School

On Thursday June 10th, 2010 Supervisor John Cook and I will hold a town hall focused on educating, equipping and empowering parents, grandparents, educators and other caring adults with the knowledge and resources needed to protect the children under their care from online dangers. The town hall will feature presentations from nationally renowned Internet safety expert and Enough Is Enough (EIE) President Donna Rice Hughes and a Fairfax County Police Officer from the Child Exploitation Unit.

The evening's program will cover the essential technical and non-technical safety basics parents and other adults in the community need to know to protect children from the online threats of pornography, sexual predators, and cyberbullies, as well as how to keep kids safe on social networking sites, gaming and mobile devices. The event will include footage from Enough Is Enough's award-winning multi-media Internet safety program, Internet Safety 101 including poignant true stories from kids, parents, victims and even a convicted sex offender, as well as expert advice from clinicians, child safety advocates, law enforcement and technology insiders.

This event is open to parents, educators and other concerned adults in the community. Some of the material is not appropriate for young children.

What: Internet Safety Town Hall Hosted By Fairfax County Supervisors Pat Herrity and John Cook (Open to parents, educators and other concerned adults in the community. Some of the material is not appropriate for young children)

Who: Remarks from Supervisors Herrity and Cook and Presentations from renowned Internet safety expert and Enough Is Enough (EIE) President Donna Rice Hughes and a Fairfax County Police Officer from the Child Exploitation Unit.

When: Thursday June 10th, 7:30 P.M.

**Where: W.T. Woodson High School (9525 Main St
Fairfax, VA 22031-4099)**

Problems with Phase 3 of the Fairfax County Parkway Project

Funding is finally in place and construction is well underway for the final 2 mile section of the Fairfax County Parkway through the Engineering Proving Ground. One significant concern that arose last month at the Citizen's Information Meeting regarding Phase 3 of

the project was that the existing one-lane ramp from NB Rolling Road to NB/WB Fairfax County Parkway (7100) will be under-sized once the Parkway is completed, replacing the 2-lane Rolling Road. I brought this issue to the Board's attention at our May 25th Board Meeting and they endorsed my request to have our transportation staff identify possible solutions and funding sources for this fix.

The problem is three lanes of the Parkway going north from Fort Belvoir, the new NGA building and the Belvoir North area (formerly called the EPG) will be forced to squeeze onto the existing single-lane loop ramp in order to continue north on the Parkway. An Environmental Assessment is underway and preliminary indications are that the single-lane loop ramp will be woefully inadequate for the northbound traffic on the Parkway.

Shirley Design/Build, LLC, the contractor that will be constructing this phase of the project, has proposed design changes that may save up to \$8M over the original cost of this Phase of the project. Should this alternative be built, the cost savings could potentially be used to help improve the existing one-lane ramp from Rolling Road to NB/WB 7100.

It is clear that the current design is not going to work. I assure you that I will continue to work on this problem until we find a solution.

Moving Forward on the Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes Parkway Interchange Project

The Fairfax County Parkway, Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive Interchange project went to advertisement for construction bids on May 25. If all goes as planned, construction should start this fall and be completed in 2013. This is great news because as *Herrity Report* readers are aware there were a few problems that would have potentially held up the project's construction, including issues with dams and utility relocation, which I was able to help solve. By working with Dominion Power and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) I was able to get these lines relocated in an expedited fashion, moving the completion date of the project up by about two years.

I would like to thank Jane Rosenbaum and Kathy Ichter of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation as well as Bud Siegel and Nassre Obeed at VDOT for their work to keep this project moving forward. For more information on this project, including a rendering of what the interchanges will look like, visit the Virginia Department of Transportation's website at <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/nova/fairfax-rt7100-Fairlakes.asp> or contact the VDOT Project Manager, Nassre Obeed at 703-383-2187.

Upcoming Events

Springfield Days!

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