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- **[Announcing Rescheduled Budget Town Hall with Special Guest County Executive Ed Long:](#)** Please join me on March 26th for a presentation from County Executive Ed Long and the Department on Management and Budget to find out where your tax dollars are going.
- **[Mandate Task Force Moves Forward with Reforms:](#)** Building on the historic elimination of 22 mandates in 2012, the task force looked to implement long term reforms to improve the relationship between the Commonwealth and local jurisdictions.
- **[Examining the Feasibility of Air Rights to Reduce Tolls on the Dulles Toll Road:](#)** The total projected cost of Dulles Rail Phase II is \$3Bn, and toll road users are on the hook for over \$2Bn of that. Finding an alternative funding source is imperative to keep the economic health of the corridor vibrant. Air rights may be one of the answers.
- **[Braddock Road and Ox Road Lane Closures Through April:](#)** Due to the GMU Campus Drive Project there will be lane closures on Braddock and Ox roads for the next month. Find out more below.

Announcing Rescheduled Budget Town Hall with Special Guest County Executive Ed Long

I will be hosting a budget town hall on Tuesday, March 26 (previously scheduled for March 6 but postponed due to snow) to give residents an opportunity to better understand how Fairfax County is spending their money, to have their questions addressed, and to hear your thoughts.

County Executive Ed Long and representatives from the Department of Management and Budget will present the budget and will be available to answer questions. The town

hall begins at 7:00pm and is being held in the Community Room of the West Springfield Government Center (Police Station) located at 6140 Rolling Road in Springfield.

Mandate Task Force Moves Forward with Reforms

On March 13th, Governor McDonnell's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review released its second Interim Report to the Governor. [Please see the Governor's press release at the end of the Herrity Report.](#) In 2012, the Task Force successfully eliminated a historic 22 mandates, by far the largest single repeal of mandates in state history. The repeal of these mandates makes the job of local governments easier by removing unnecessary and burdensome regulations. Building upon the success in 2012, the Task Force set out to implement long term reforms at the state level that bring together state agencies and local governments to create a dialogue on mandates that are handed down intentionally, or by accident.

This year, the Governor took many our recommendations, endorsed legislation that eliminated a number of mandates, and has requested that state agencies reach out and proactively work with local governments through a roundtable format. Throughout the Task Force's work, many mandates were discovered that 1) were not mandates to begin with or 2) were implemented without knowing the adverse effects they have on local governments.

These roundtable discussions have resulted in many mandates being repealed as a result of these discussions. One example is the work performed by the Auditor of Public Accounts. The APA, at the request of the Task Force, convened a working group of stake holders to reexamine the reporting requirements placed on local governments. After working on reforming their reporting requirements, they successfully reduced the required reports by 30%. This same format was successful in 2012 when the Task Force raised the problem of secondary road projects needing to be approved at the district level, and again by central administration in Richmond. After having conversations with VDOT, this duplicative and costly requirement was removed and the approval process for secondary road projects can happen at the District level without having to be approved by VDOT Headquarters. In addition, at the direction of the Task Force and Governor, the Department of Education is working to reduce the reporting requirements by over 15%.

While these are just three examples, they show the potential of a model which brings together decision makers in state agencies and local governments. By opening communications and establishing relationships, these roundtables will result in a better understanding of mandates and give local governments a more active role to guide the development of mandates before they are enacted.

Additionally, in 2012 the Task Force renewed the call for increased funding to local governments from the state. I am very thankful that Governor McDonnell included more than \$250 million in additional aid to local governments in his budget. I am especially thankful for restoration of the \$45 million "Local Aid to the Commonwealth".

The Task Force's next meeting will take place in Richmond on May 15th and will be a roundtable with local governments and the Department of Education.

Examining the Feasibility of Air Rights to Reduce Tolls on the Dulles Toll Road

With the impending contract award for Phase II of the Silver Line, time is running short to identify and act on some potential alternative funding proposals. Assuming no cost over runs, the total projected cost of Phase II is nearly \$3 billion. As it stands now, Dulles Toll Road drivers are on the hook for 75% of these costs, or over \$2 billion; still assuming no cost over runs. If we do not find alternative funding sources, I fear that the resulting high tolls will hamper the economic strength of the Dulles corridor.

It is for this reason that it is critically important for us to look for alternative funding sources to "buy down" these tolls, and reduce the coming burden for toll road users and the entire Dulles corridor. The \$300 million included in the recently approved state transportation package will provide some relief for a few years.

There is general consensus that air rights may be worth pursuing but there have been few steps taken towards making this potential a reality. At my request, the Board will have a discussion on the feasibility of air rights at the next Transportation Committee meeting. Air rights basically involve developing the space over the Dulles Toll Road adjacent to a Metro station. The funds from the "sale" of the air rights would then be used to reduce the portion of funding of Phase II of the Silver Line. It is critical that this feasibility study be completed as soon as possible so construction of the Phase II stations would not preclude the use of air rights. In fact, it may require some investment, if deemed worthwhile.

Braddock Road and Ox Road Lane Closures Through April

Due to the construction of the GMU Campus Drive Project commuters should be aware of two upcoming lane closures that could affect their daily drive.

First, the inside lanes of Route 123 between Mason Pond Drive and University Drive will be closed intermittently between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday for the next month. The construction of a detour on Route 123 is expected to be completed by mid-April.

Second, lane closures on Braddock Road, between Route 123 and Nottoway River Lane, will continue from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday until the end of April.

For more information [click here](#).

Governor McDonnell's Press Release on the Passage of the Second Interim Report

Governor's Task Force for Local Mandate Review Issues Second Interim Report to the Governor

- Task Force Recommends Building Partnership Between State and Local Government -

Report Available [here](#).

RICHMOND - The Governor's Task Force for Local Mandate Review today released the second interim report to the governor. Building on the success of the first interim report to the governor and a successful legislative session, the task force resumed its work on mandate relief in 2012.

Speaking about today's release, Governor McDonnell said, "I thank Chairman Herrity and members of the task force for their tremendous leadership in examining the state-local relationship. I understand the challenge local governments face when trying to balance their budgets during complex financial times. This difficulty is exacerbated when the state places burdensome mandates on localities. One of the principal recommendations of the task force was to reinstate and provide additional state funding to localities. That is why I proposed more than \$250 million in improved support for localities in the FY2014 budget. I look forward to continuing to work with the task force and local governments to strengthen and improve the relationship between state and local government."

The task force revised its approach to mandate relief for the second interim report. It developed and recommended a multi-part strategy: (1) establishing a framework for discussion between state and local government to improve the efficiency and delivery of services; (2) reforming the bureaucratic rules blocking the mandate review process; (3) identifying key mandates that require funding; and (4) continuing to recommend a reduction of state mandates.

The task force divided its work into three subcommittees:

1. Education Mandates: This subcommittee continued to examine education mandates and make recommendations for repeal. In the long-term, this group will concentrate on mandates in specific areas such as the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), special education, data reporting, human capital and testing.

2. General Mandates: This subcommittee continued to solicit input from local governments and organizations regarding potential mandates to recommend for elimination.

3. State-Local Relationships: This subcommittee examined methods for improving the general nature of state-local government relationships.

The task force continued to solicit and receive input, suggestions and comments from local governments, state agencies and the public both online and through its public meetings. The task force also communicated regularly with Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and the Virginia Municipal League (VML) which represent a collection of localities statewide.

Task force chairman and Fairfax Board of Supervisors member Pat Herrity remarked, "I am very happy that for the second year in a row governor McDonnell's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review was able to produce a report which led to real mandate relief for local governments. Based on the proposed bills sent for review of their impact on localities, it is clear that we are raising awareness of the impact some legislative proposals have on local governments. On behalf of all jurisdictions across the Commonwealth, I would like to thank the governor for restoring the full \$45 million "Local Aid to the Commonwealth" in this budget and his continued focus on improving the way states and localities do business. We have made a lot of progress over the last two years, and the Task Force is looking forward to keeping up the work of delivering real relief to local governments."