



Supervisor

**Caleb A. Kershner**

Catoctin District



**Loudoun County**  
VIRGINIA

## Hard Questions for LCPS Budget

Dear Catoctin Residents,

Once again I'm sending you a newsletter while we're in the middle of winter precipitation. This is starting to feel like a habit! Stay warm, remember where you left your snow shovel, and break out the hot chocolate as needed.

We are midway through Black History Month. Being a fan of history, I'd like to share the stories of some remarkable members of the Black community:

- **Charles Hamilton Houston** was a [civil rights attorney](#) who led the [first Black legal team to practice in the Loudoun Courthouse](#), trained future Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall, and spent his legal career dismantling Jim Crow laws.
- **George Washington Carver** was an agricultural scientist who is [famous for popularizing the peanut](#). But that was just one part of his work. He introduced new crop rotation and farming techniques and shared them through mobile farm training centers, which rescued many farmers and revived the South's agricultural economy.
- **Garrett Morgan** was an inventor who [created early versions of the gas mask and the three position traffic light](#). And in 1916, he strapped on his own invention and descended into a gas-filled tunnel, four miles under Lake Erie, [to help rescue nine men from otherwise certain death](#).

This past Monday was also Presidents Day. Last year I shared some facts about past presidents, and I see no reason to stop that now:

- **John Quincy Adams** was the first president to [run for Congress after serving as president](#). He also appeared before the US Supreme Court to [argue the Amistad case](#), helping to secure the freedom of a group of Africans who had been kidnapped and sold to a Cuban plantation, then un-kidnapped themselves en route and sailed their former captors' ship into New York harbor.

- **Martin Van Buren** was the [first president to be born a citizen of the US](#). On a sadder note, his administration also [opposed John Quincy Adams](#) in the *Amistad* case.
- **Gerald Ford** is the only person to become president [without having been elected to the office of president or vice president](#). To the best of my knowledge, he was not involved in the *Amistad* case.

Finally, Loudoun has kicked off its FY 2022 budget planning. We have also seen LCPS's budget proposal for the coming year, which we will be expected to fund in large part. It has raised some eyebrows, including mine - and yes, will be asking LCPS some hard questions. You'll find my full article on that below.

Please keep sending us your thoughts. We will be posting regular updates for the Catoctin District on [my Facebook page](#), and will be adding more information and resources to [my webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Caleb Kershner

---



## Survey: How's the New Email Design?

In January, our email provider sent our old email drafting tool off to The Great Recycle Bin In The Sky. We've recreated our newsletter using the new drafting tool. But it's a work in progress, and we'd like to get your feedback.

Would you take our [short survey](#) and tell us what you think of the design?

**Take The Survey**



If I tried to put all the interesting news from the Catoctin District into one monthly email, you'd be scrolling the rest of the month before you hit the bottom.

Which is why I also have a Facebook page.

So stay tuned to these newsletters for the big-picture news from the Catoctin District. But for the other day-to-day stories and updates, including [All Points Broadband snagging another \\$8.5 million in federal funds for their fiber network](#), drop by my Facebook page and give it a like.

**Go to Facebook**

## Current Events



Image Credit: [Aerial photo](#) of proposed monopole location, [AnimalShelterWireless.com](#)

### Balloon Fly Postponed for Milestone Monopole (But Online Town Hall Is Still On)

Milestone Communications had to reschedule tomorrow's balloon fly for their monopole project in Waterford. They were originally going to do it tomorrow, February 20, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, but had to call it off due to a forecast of high winds.

Instead, the rescheduled balloon fly will either be held on Saturday, February 27, or on Sunday, February 28, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, depending on the weather. Milestone will confirm which date they are using by next Friday and will post that information to their [project website](#).

Milestone will still go forward with their online town hall event on Monday, February 22, at 6:30 PM. You can register and learn more about it [here](#).

---

## FY22 School Board's Adopted Budget Executive Summary



Loudoun County Public Schools 21000 Education Court Ashburn, VA 20148  
E-mail: [schools@lcps.org](mailto:schools@lcps.org) Web Site: [www.lcps.org](http://www.lcps.org)  
Prepared by Budget and Financial Analytics Division  
(571) 252-1250

*Image Credit: Screenshot of LCPS FY2022 budget presentation on Feb. 8, 2021, LCPS*

## LCPS Asked Us for a 10% Budget Increase

The LCPS budget is Loudoun County's single largest budget item. Every year, we give the school system an average of 66–70% of every tax dollar that we get. We run the rest of the county's programs - our public safety, transportation projects, parks and recreation, everything - on what's left. So figuring out exactly how much to pay the schools is the largest decision that the Board makes.

The stakes for this decision are even higher because we can't control how the schools use those funds. We can only listen to LCPS's proposed budget for the year, ask them follow-up questions, and decide how much we will pay them. Then we transfer those funds into LCPS, with no further oversight or authority over their use.

LCPS is a vital part of our county life. Many of you rely on our schools to run, and run well. If we cut too small a check, our schools (and thus you) suffer. But if we cut too large a check, our taxpayers (who are also you) suffer. To hit the sweet spot of "just enough," we have to rely on the School Board to make a solid initial estimate. We also need them to walk us through their reasoning, and through their budget's nitty-gritty details, so we can understand how they intend to use the money. It also helps if we can see a pattern of accurate predictions and transparent explanations across multiple years.

So what has LCPS asked for this year?

The School Board adopted its proposed FY 2022 budget during their special work session on February 4. They trimmed the Superintendent's proposal by about \$16 million, leaving them with a budget of \$1,379,089,606. That would put the county local transfer (i.e. the part Loudoun will pay for) at **\$951,961,063**.

They are asking for \$97 million more than their FY 2021 budget. **That's a 10% increase.**

And that's after a year where LCPS enrollment not only fell 4,500 students short of their projections, but [shrank outright by 2,500 students compared to the previous fall](#).

Needless to say, I have some concerns.

## Our Students and Families Are Suffering

Let me start by saying this: I appreciate the work that's been put into the LCPS FY 2022 budget. As someone who's been through the County's own budget process, I know how much time, thought, and effort goes into creating a document like this.

But 2020 was a brutal year, and 2021 hasn't felt like much of an improvement. Our students have been out of school for nearly a year now. That has placed a tremendous burden on every LCPS family and student, and it's inflicting an ever-increasing psychological cost on the students. For so many mental, emotional, and relational reasons, it is not good to keep them isolated like this for months on end.

On top of that, many families struggle with distance learning because they don't have adequate broadband at home. That would be hard enough if each family had exactly one student who needed the internet at a time. But when there's two or more kids who both need to log on to a video class at the same time? And when one or both parents are also now working from home, and have to hop on to a Zoom call with their work team? You can see why that hasn't worked out.

So I applaud LCPS for getting students back to hybrid education. That was a good start. It got us moving in the right direction. But our students need more. We have *got* to get our public school system back on track.

I'm getting an enormous number of emails from parents who tell me how frustrated they are. Many are desperate for help and guidance. And what breaks my heart is that **these parents love our school system**. They appreciate each and every one of our teachers and understand just how hard they've worked under impossible conditions during this pandemic. They are willing to make sacrifices to help this system work.

But they are also seeing their children not getting what they need. They see the mental health challenges rise and the grades fall. They are experiencing the full costs of this distance learning model, and those costs climb higher each day. And when they ask for help, they are given such helpful advice as, "You can drive to the school parking lot, where there's WiFi, and sit in your car all day to do the online classes."

Enough. This mess has gone on long enough. We need to make it stop.

## My Constituents Can't Keep Enduring This

I sent out an informal survey two weeks ago to try to understand what families are experiencing. We got 719 responses. 99% of respondents reported a Loudoun zip code,

and 65% reported one that is in the Catocin District or that Catocin shares with the Leesburg district, so we reached a lot of Western Loudoun and/or Catocin families.

Here's what they told us.

- 44% of them have withdrawn their kids, are doing so now, are thinking about it, or wish that they could.
- 54% rated LCPS's decisions over the past two school years as bad (and another 18% rated its decisions as mediocre).
- 58% had little or no confidence that LCPS would be able to meet its own goals and deadlines for returning to hybrid learning.
- 63% supported holding part of LCPS's funding in reserve until certain conditions were met.

Those are sobering responses. And they agree with the many emails I've received over the past weeks and months.

## Pushing LCPS for Important Answers

For all these reasons, I have a hard time justifying a 10% increase in the LCPS budget. I'm also concerned by the fact that LCPS has not identified [which budget items are first, second, or third priority](#) for them. Essentially they've told us that all their budget items are top priority, rather than helping us understand which items are truly vital, and which ones could be reduced or cut for the year.

Needless to say, that's not going to cut it this year. So I'm pursuing an unusual option: **I support holding part of LCPS's requested funds in reserve, until their actual enrollment numbers come in on September 30.**

I'm not the only Supervisor who supports this general idea. At our joint meeting with LCPS, Supervisor Turner announced he would consider [withholding 10% percent of LCPS's requested funds](#) until they can show us a "detailed, fixed-date-certain plan" for returning to 100% in person learning.

In the meantime, I will be pushing LCPS for answers on a number of important questions, such as:

- What funding for FY 2021 has been left unspent due to the lack of in-person classroom learning?
- How much COVID-19 funding has LCPS received but not spent yet?
- How much of the FY 2021 gas fund and transportation fund are still unspent? (Yes, I'm aware they have been delivering meals. But there's no way that they used *all* the funding that was set aside for transportation and fuel.)

And I'm continuing to sift through the freeform responses from my informal survey. There are a lot of good questions in there. I've been able to ask a few of them already, and I intend to ask a lot more of them as we work through these issues with the LCPS budget.





Image Credit: [Pixabay](#)

## Broadband Update

Earlier this month, County staff gave the Board our first quarterly update on our Emergency Broadband Implementation measures. Here's a summary of the progress they've made on each item.

### **1. Waive pre-application (PRAP) requirements for telecommunications facilities.**

**Update:** PRAPs are no longer mandatory for legislative telecommunications facility applications; they are now completely optional. This item is now complete.

### **2. Eliminate SPEX fees and set a uniform \$6,990 CMPT fee for new telecommunications uses in identified underserved areas.**

**Update:** Planning and Zoning has been working with the County Attorney's Office to find the best way to implement this uniform fee. Their initial best guess is that it will take a Zoning Ordinance Amendment (ZOAM). They expect to bring an item about this to the Board sometime in March.



### **3. Establish a Telecommunications Application Ombudsman program.**

**Update:** The Board moved to establish an ombudsman, but no staff person within a community development department has been designated yet. Those departments' leaders will convene to discuss this.

### **4. Make assistance meetings a standard part of the application process for telecommunications uses.**

**Update:** A formal application assistance meeting process (with LMIS/LOLA application number) has not been established. However, should a new application be submitted before a formal process is established, staff from the DPZ Customer Service Center, Building and Development (B&D) Engineering Division, and B&D Permitting Division, would offer an informal interdepartmental assistance meeting to the applicant. A team of staff members have already been identified to participate in these meetings.

Still creating a formal application assistance meeting (with an LMIS/LOLA application number). But if a new application comes in right now, the applicant would be invited to an informal assistance meeting with staff from Building & Development, their Permitting Division, and the DPZ Customer Service Center— and there's already a designated team of those staff members ready for meet.

### **5. Move funds to start the RFP process for building fiber to the last five county facilities on our dark fiber project.**

**Update:** The budget adjustment was executed in December 2020, and funding is now available for us to start the RFP process. The FY 2022 proposed CIP includes a proposal to speed up funding to FY 2022 (instead of FY 2023-2025), so we can finish building out this broadband infrastructure to the remaining 5 county sites.

Our IT Department worked with Finance and Budget's Procurement Division to line up a seasoned consultant, who will compile and finish the Remote Site Connectivity RFPA. The formal kickoff meeting to discuss that project's timing was planned for the first week of February.

### **6. Provide quarterly updates on other broadband initiatives identified in the November 17, 2020 item.**

### *6a. Segra's efforts to attract/contract with last mile providers.*

**Update:** Segra has signed multiple non-disclosures with potential broadband providers and partners. For potential service expansion, they're focusing on the Phase 2 lines that would be delivered with the future Dark Fiber RFP.

### *6b. Applicability of HB 2141 to Loudoun County.*

**Update:** HB 2141 does allow Loudoun to create a service district for broadband. But it doesn't create a taxing mechanism to recover costs, like other service district provisions have.

Staff is in talks with existing franchisees to see where they plan to have future telecommunications applications – those are considered proprietary, but they're still working to find locations that would be mutually beneficial (i.e. help our un/underserved areas).

### *6c. Funding sources available to support broadband initiatives, including grant opportunities.*

**Update:** Staff is working up a plan and a team to submit a comprehensive application for the 2022 VATI grants. They're talking to existing franchisees to line up a private partner who's willing to fund and complete the required construction. They've also engaged the Loudoun Broadband Alliance (LBA) to help find partners.

Here's a timeline of VATI deadlines and major milestones that staff are working toward:

January	Begin project description
January	Identify vendor(s) who will be a co-applicant
February	Finalize vendor choice
March	Identify <i>at least</i> 20% match
April	Present match request to Board (if needed)
May	Complete maps
May	Complete "passing form"
April – July	Regular meetings with co-applicant
June	Assign writing tasks
July	Finalize Notice of Application
July	Complete all sections of grant narrative.
August	Grant application summary form due to Management Analyst
August	Deputy CFO signs grant application summary form
August	Application Deadline

### *6d. Partnership opportunities with power utilities for broadband expansion.*

**Update:** Staff is reviewing applications for the Broadband Program manager position in DIT. That position will lead efforts for the Phase 2 Dark Fiber RFP expansion & look for new broadband opportunities.

### *6e. Other initiatives.*

**Update:** Public WiFi was expanded to parking areas at the Loudoun Valley Center Community Center in December (using CARES Act funds), just like with the library parking lots earlier last year.



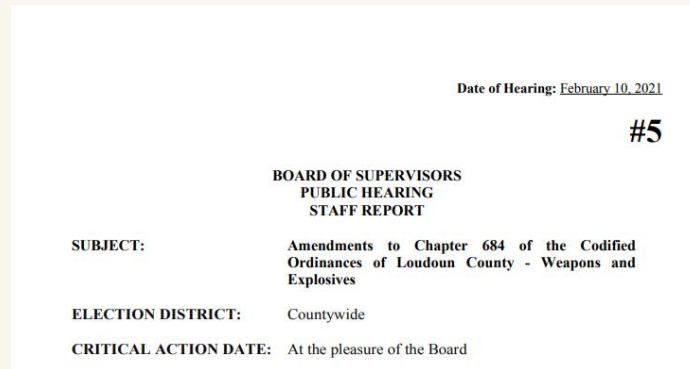
Image Credit: [Loudoun Broadband Alliance logo](https://loudounbroadbandalliance.com), LoudounBroadbandAlliance.com

## **LBA's Broadband Survey**

[Loudoun Broadband Alliance \(LBA\)](#) is a volunteer group that wants to promote accessible, reliable, and affordable broadband internet access for the underserved in Loudoun County. They've asked Loudoun residents and business owners to fill out this [short survey](#) about their current Internet access. Your responses will help them build an updated map of underserved areas in the county and identify opportunities for broadband expansion.

LBA promises that your responses and any personal information you choose to provide to LBA are confidential. They will only use this information to inform LBA's demographic studies related to broadband services in Loudoun County. If you'd like to see their full privacy policy, you can read it [here](#).

**Take LBA's Survey**



*Image Credit: Screenshot of presentation on the ordinance, Loudoun County Government*

## Proposal to Ban Guns in County Buildings

The Board is planning to pass an ordinance that would prohibit people from bringing guns or ammunition into County government buildings and parks. If it passes, the Board will also likely install screening stations and magnometers at the Government Center, the Shenandoah Building, and the Sterling Service Center at Ridgetop Circle.

**Let me be clear: We should not pass this ordinance.** I oppose it in the strongest possible terms.

To explain why, I'd like to share with you part of an email that the Board received from Mr. Jimmy O'Connor. Here's how he sums up the problems with trying to ban guns in public parks:

"Outdoor spaces cannot be sufficiently controlled as to prohibit firearms in public parks. Without doors to lock, there simply is no way to prohibit an individual with bad intentions from doing harm to others outdoors. Outright prohibition of firearms in parks will stop law abiding people like me from carrying a firearm into a park—and in doing so remove my ability to protect myself. However, such a policy will have no effect on an individual with bad intentions. That bad person will not heed your sign, nor will they be barred from entrance via a locked door or x-ray machine like they would in a building."

The only point I disagree with is that I don't trust those locked doors or magnometers as much as Mr. O'Connor does. Because those measures may stop some of the bad actors some of the time, but they aren't foolproof. And when they fail, they will leave law-abiding people at the mercy of an armed bad actor.

Supervisor Buffington tried to persuade the Board to permanently table this item. I supported his motion, but the rest of the Board voted it down. Then things got [procedurally](#)

[dicey](#) for a minute, when a motion was made to pass this ordinance outright at the public hearing. That's not how the Board usually handles this sort of proposal and it came as a surprise. Thankfully, the Board ultimately voted to send this item to our March 2 business meeting instead.

---



Image Credit: [LCSO Deputy Camron Gentry leaves the hospital](#), The Winchester Star

## Deputy Released From Hospital

LSCO Deputy Camron Gentry was finally released from Reston Hospital Center last week, more than a month after he was shot during a shoplifting complaint in Sterling.

This was [the incident you may have read about](#) on January 2. Gentry and another deputy were responding a report of shoplifting at Dulles Crossing Plaza. When they arrived, they tried to take the suspect into custody. Instead the man pulled out a gun and [shot Gentry and two security guards](#) before stealing a truck and driving away. The suspect was later found and arrested, and is currently charged with 11 felonies, including attempted first-degree murder and aggravated malicious wounding.

The two security guards suffered less serious injuries and were released from the hospital the next day. Gentry wasn't so lucky. Several bullets had struck his hip and upper legs and shattered multiple bones. Over the past month he has undergone reconstructive surgery of his tibia and fibula, as well as extensive plastic surgery. Some of his medical bills couldn't be covered by worker's compensation, so the Fraternal Order of Police [set up a GoFundMe campaign](#) that has raised over \$100,000 from the local community to help pay for those costs.

I'm glad that Deputy Gentry has recovered enough to go home, although I know he still has a long road to full recovery ahead of him. And I'm deeply grateful for the many Loudoun residents who gave to his GoFundMe campaign, prayed for him, sent him encouraging notes, and showed up to cheer him when he was released from the hospital.

## Major Road Projects



### The Route 15 North Widening Project

#### ***Summary of the Project***

The Route 15 North Widening project involves expanding Route 15 from two to four lanes between Battlefield Parkway and Montresor Road. This will involve a slew of road design, land acquisition, and construction tasks, all while following the Journey Through Hallowed Ground guidelines wherever possible.

Among other things, the widening project will include:

- A signalized Continuous Green "T" (CGT) intersection at North King Street to allow through traffic to continue north on Route 15 without stopping,
- An updated signalized intersection at Whites Ferry Road,
- A two-lane hybrid roundabout at Montresor Road,
- A realigned section of Limestone School Road to connect with the Montresor Road roundabout,
- A shared use path on the west side of Route 15 from Tuscarora High School to Montresor Road, *and*
- A shared use path along the entire length of Whites Ferry Road

#### ***Location & Major Design Elements Approved***

The Board approved this project's location and design at our business meeting on February 2. The Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure (DTCI) is now working on the 60% design plans.

[Visit Project Website](#)



Safety and Operational Study West Virginia to Route 7

## The Route 9 Safety & Operational Study

The Route 9 Safety and Operational Study (SOS) is reviewing Route 9 from the West Virginia border to Route 7 to identify safety and traffic operational issues along the corridor. As with the Route 15 South Safety and Operations Study, public and focus group meeting will be held.

### ***Ongoing Evaluation***

Work is currently underway to evaluate existing conditions along Route 9, including roadway and intersection safety, roadway design and traffic.

### ***Focus Group Meetings***

The [first Route 9 focus group meeting](#) was held on February 13, 2020. More meetings were held virtually on July 16 and September 30.

These focus groups are intended to allow discussion with property owners whose use or activity generates significant traffic, business owners, and representatives of civic organizations located in the area. There will be up to five focus group meetings throughout this study, which will wrap up in the summer of 2021.

You can check the [project website](#) for further information. Please feel free to [email me](#) with your thoughts about the project.

[Visit Project Website](#)

---





Safety and Operational Study Leesburg to Prince William County

## The Route 15 Safety & Operational Study

The purpose of the Route 15 South Safety and Operational Study (SOS) is to identify safety and traffic operational issues along the corridor. The goal of the proposed improvements is to ensure that this segment of Route 15 continues to carry local and commuter traffic safely and efficiently while still preserving the unique context of the historical roadway.

From October 2020 - January 2021, the study team has been working on the preliminary concept designs, which were presented at the last focus group meeting on October 1. They've been incorporating [feedback that the focus group offered](#) at that meeting. At this point the team has made enough progress on those preliminary draft alternatives to start collecting more feedback.

A virtual focus group work session was held on January 28. The team and focus group reviewed the updated concept designs, going through each alternative and collecting feedback on them. The team recorded this feedback in a number of ways, and they'll be summarizing and incorporating it into the designs.

There will be up to five focus group meetings throughout the study. The study is expected to wrap up in summer 2021.

The [project website](#) includes all the documents from the focus group and public input meetings. Please take a look at it for further information, and feel free to [email me](#) with your thoughts about the project.

[See Project Website](#)

## Other Key Road Projects

*The latest on County and VDOT projects that impact Catoclin District residents*

### [Crosstrail Boulevard - Segment B](#)

*Summary of the Project*

The design and construction from Kincaid Boulevard to Russell Branch Parkway. A contract award for construction of this proffer item was approved at the Board Business Meeting on December 3, 2019.

#### ***Latest Update***

This project was slowed down by surprise weather, but is still moving forward. The contractor is coordinating its activities with the Town of Leesburg and with other agencies.

---

## **Crosstrail Boulevard - Segment C**

#### ***Summary of the Project***

This project provides for the planning, design, ROW acquisition, and the construction of a four lane median divided road as a Major Collector between Sycolin Road and the Dulles Greenway on a 120 ft. wide ROW. The project also includes shared use paths on both sides of Crosstrail Boulevard and a bridge over Sycolin Creek.

#### ***Latest Update***

No change since last time. In this quarter of 2021, a design fee will be negotiated, and items will be prepared for a future FGOEDC and Board of Supervisors meeting so a design contract can be awarded.

---

## **Evergreen Mill Road Widening – Town of Leesburg**

#### ***Summary of the Project***

This project adds two lanes to the two existing lanes on Evergreen Mill Road from South King Street to the eastern entrance of Heritage High School. This project is managed by the Town of Leesburg.

#### ***Latest Update***

No change since last time. In this quarter, the 30% Preliminary Design Plans were submitted and reviewed by the Town. Plans are still under review with VDOT and Loudoun County. The Town has met with the engineer to clarify questions on Town comments and is waiting on comments from VDOT and Loudoun County before finalizing a new schedule and cost estimate to submit to VDOT. Once those items are completed, the scoping phase will close. In the next quarter, work will continue on the 60% design documents and will also include additional surveying and utility location work. It is projected that initial public outreach will occur during next quarter.

---

## Route 7 Improvements, Phase 3

### ***Summary of the Project***

This project provides for the planning, design, Right-of-Way acquisition, and construction to widen Route 7 eastbound from two lanes to three lanes between Route 9 and the Dulles Greenway (267), and Westbound from two lanes to three lanes from South King Street to West Market Street. It includes reconstructing/widening the following bridges: West Market Street over Route 7, Dry Mill Road over West Market Street, Children's Center Road over Route 7, W&OD Trail over Route 7, and Route 7 over Route 15.

### ***Latest Update***

No change since last time. In this quarter, DFB continued to seek VDOT's input on a suitable Disadvantaged Enterprise Business (DBE) goal for the design RFP. In the next quarter, DFB will work with DTCL to finalize the design RFP based on VDOT's input.

---

## **Route 7 & Route 287**

### ***Summary of the Project***

This project provides for the planning, design, and construction of improvements for the Route 7 and Berlin Turnpike (Route 287) interchange. The project is funded using local tax funding and VDOT Smart Scale funding.

### ***Latest Update***

No change since last time. As of May 2020, the revised Environmental Assessment had been approved, and work had begun on the final design plans. Land acquisition is ongoing and is expected to be complete by spring 2021. Construction should begin in fall 2022.

---

## **Route 7 & Route 690**

### ***Summary of the Project***

This project funds the design, right-of-way acquisition and construction of an interchange at Route 7 and Route 690 in Purcellville.

### ***Latest Update***

The Limited Access Control Change (LAAC) Willingness posting for Public Comment ended on January 16. The plan and easement plats are still being reviewed, and the LAAC package is being prepared.

---

## **John G. Lewis Memorial (Featherbed Lane) Bridge over Catoctin Creek**

### ***Summary of the Project***

The purpose of this project is to develop conceptual bridge alternatives to address the existing historic truss bridge. VDOT presented three options to the State Department of Historic Resources. The DHS chose option 2A: building a new structure from the deck down, allowing the trusses to remain as ornamental.

John G. Lewis Memorial Bridge (Route 673 - Featherbed Lane) over Catoctin Creek is a single span steel pin connected Pratt through truss with a timber deck and asphalt overlay, supported on stringers and floor beams. The bridge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 25, 1974. It is 157 feet long, has an overall width of about 14 feet and clear roadway width of 11.16 feet. It carries one alternating traffic lane. The bridge was originally erected in 1889 on the Leesburg & Alexandria Turnpike (Route 7) over Goose Creek, to replace a bridge destroyed by flooding. In 1932 the bridge was dismantled and moved to its current location. The bridge was posted 15 tons in 2004 and reduced to 3 tons in 2013 due to insufficient capacity. The existing bridge has an average traffic count of 57 vehicles per day with daily truck traffic less than 3 trucks.

### ***Latest Update***

The detour is in place and construction is underway.

---

## **Route 7 & Battlefield Parkway**

### ***Summary of the Project***

This project will replace the traffic signal at Route 7 (East Market Street) and Battlefield Parkway with a grade-separated interchange, and remove or modify the signalized intersection at Route 7 and Cardinal Park Drive to reduce congestion and improve traffic operations. Other improvements include accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians, and new interchange lighting. The Town of Leesburg has executed an agreement with VDOT to administer this project on the Town's behalf. The Town has also executed a reimbursement agreement with NVTVA.

### ***Latest Update***

The project is 68% complete. Right now work crews are working on the bridge where they will start the bridge deck pours in mid-March, and they're working to finish Keystone Court, where paving will also start in March. They are also building the ramps and widening Route 7. They expect to remove the detour by June 1, and to finish the project entirely by November 23.

---

## **Route 9 & Route 287 Roundabout**

### ***Summary of the Project***

This project includes design and construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Charles Town Pike (Route 9) and Berlin Turnpike (Route 287).

### ***Latest Update***

The 100% design plan and the floodplain alteration were submitted to B&D and VDOT on January 12, as planned. No bids were received for the Nutrient Credit RFP, so it will be reissued by Procurement.

---

## **Route 15 - Route 15 Interchange at Edwards Ferry/Fort Evans Road**

### ***Summary of the Project***

This project includes the design and construction of grade separated interchanges at Route 15/Edwards Ferry Road and Route 15/Fort Evans Road.

### ***Latest Update***

No change since last time. The consultant proposal is being reviewed, and setup work is being done for the project.

---

## **Town of Lovettsville Broadway Streetscape, Phase 2A**

### ***Summary of the Project***

This project provides for the design, ROW, and construction of sidewalk improvements along Broadway Street from Park Place to Light Street. This project is managed by the Town of Lovettsville.

### ***Latest Update***

No change since last time. In this quarter, the 30% modified plans are still under review by VDOT. The 30% modified plans are revised based on comments received from VDOT on 30% plans. In the next quarter, it is anticipated that a public hearing will be held and preparation for ROW acquisition will begin. The reported delay is due to the extended VDOT review timeframe. The environmental documents for the project have been modified to include East Broad Street Phase 2B and awaiting VDOT's finding of Categorical Exclusion for the project.

## **Town of Lovettsville, Church Street & Pennsylvania Avenue Sidewalk Improvements**

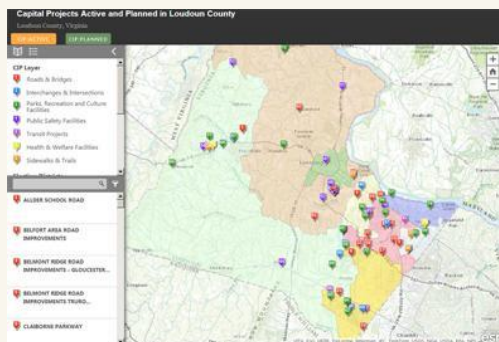
### ***Summary of the Project***

This project provides for improvements to the sidewalk at South Church Street and East Pennsylvania Avenue. In addition to sidewalks, improvements include roadway widening, storm water management, and street lights.

### ***Latest Update***

No change since last time. This project is managed by the [Town of Lovettsville](#). In this quarter, the 30% modified plans are still under review by VDOT. The 30% modified plans are revised based on comments received from VDOT on 30% plans. In the next quarter, it is anticipated that a public hearing will be held and preparation for ROW acquisition will begin. The reported delay is due to the extended VDOT review timeframe.

## **More Road Resources**



### **Loudoun's Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)**

Use the county's interactive map to track capital improvement projects in Loudoun. It will show you active projects (currently funded) and planned projects (part of a later budget plan).

[View the map](#)

## VDOT's Road Paving Projects

Use VDOT's new interactive map to track the status of all road paving projects in Loudoun. The map includes roads that are getting all types of treatments, including plant mix, latex, and slurry.

[View the map](#)



## Business Resources



## The Official Guide To Starting Your Rural Business In Loudoun

Are you thinking of starting a rural business in Loudoun County? Our Department of Economic Development has put together this guide just for you. It gives an overview of important information for rural businesses, from farm and breweries to restaurants and bed & breakfasts, and helps you figure out if your specific use is permitted on your property.



**Read Now**

---



## **Forgivable Loans for Small Businesses**

The Virginia 30 Day Fund has [given forgivable loans to over 700 businesses](#) to help them through this pandemic. If you own a small business in Virginia, I recommend that you check them out - they are a nonprofit, founded when COVID-19 first struck, and their goal is to help 1,000 businesses by the end of 2020.

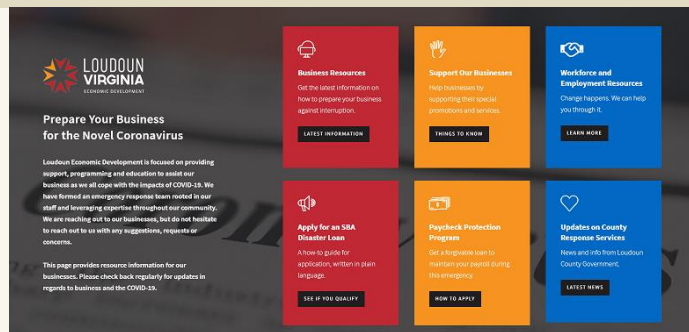
To qualify for one of these forgivable loans, a business must be:

- A small businesses that employs 3 to 30 people,
- Based in Virginia and have been operating for at least one year, *and*
- Owned and operated by a Virginia resident.

The funds from these loans don't need to be repaid. But if businesses who receive the Fund's assistance do, later on, want to "pay it forward" to another Virginia small business that needs the help, they can do so by directing those dollars back to the Fund, which will disburse the funding to another Virginia business in need.

**Learn More**

---



## Business Guides & Resources

Whether you're anticipating interruptions in your supply chain and/or customer sales, there are resources that can help bolster your business. Learn more about financing, education and training opportunities, and what data centers are doing to fuel digital tools.

Here are the top online resources offered by the Department of Economic Development:

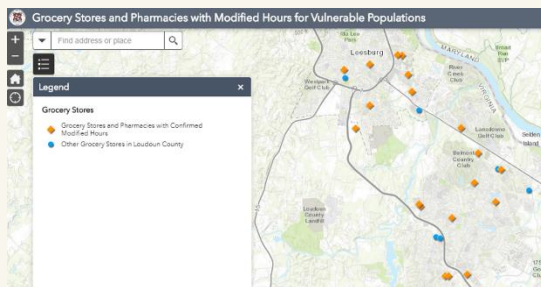
### COVID-19 Resources

- [Join The Take Loudoun Home Campaign](#)
- [Workforce Resources for Businesses](#)
- [Workforce Resources for Employees & Job Seekers](#)

### General Business Resources

- [Rural Business Educational Resources](#)
- [Financing and Loans](#)
- [Business Training & Education](#)
- [Digital Business Resources](#)

## COVID-19 Resources



### Grocery Stores With Designated Hours for Seniors

Loudoun County has launched an interactive map to help residents find grocery stores and pharmacies with designated hours for vulnerable individuals. These shopping hours are designated for older adults, as well as individuals with underlying health issues or compromised

immune systems, who are at greater risk of complications from COVID-19.

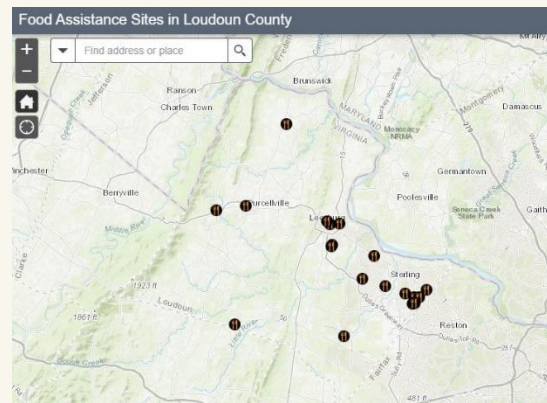
[View the map](#)

---

## Food Banks, Community Meals, And Other Food Help

Loudoun County has launched an interactive map to help residents find food assistance sites, including food banks, pantries and non-school meal distribution sites.

The searchable map also links to webpages for the various sites. It will be updated as food assistance sites make service changes.



[View the map](#)

---

## Behavioral Health Resources

- [Coping with Stress During COVID-19 Outbreak \(PDF\)](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Stress During COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health \(PDF\)](#)
- [Mental Health and Coping During COVID-19](#)

If you are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, Emergency Services are available 24 hours daily, seven days per week at 703-777-0320. For general information questions, email or call 703-771-5155.

---

## Avoiding COVID Scams

Beware of COVID-19 scammers trying to use your compassion or fear of the virus against you. The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office has [created a list](#) of the most common scam techniques so you can recognize and avoid them.

## Read The List

---

## Stay Informed

- **Sign up for email and text updates** about Loudoun's response to COVID-19 at [loudoun.gov/coronavirus](https://loudoun.gov/coronavirus)
- **Text LCCOVID19 to 888777** to receive text alerts from Loudoun County about COVID-19
- Follow the [Loudoun County Government Facebook Page](#) and [@LoudounCoGovt](#) on Twitter

## Neat County Resources



### Loudoun Express Request

Loudoun Express Request is a helpful tool for contacting county staff regarding a wide spectrum of issues. Internet service, property use, environmental health, and much more can be entered on LEX. Enter your question or concern and LEX will contact appropriate county staff! Learn more [here](#).

## Ask A Question

---

LOUDOUN CARES  
**VOLUNTEER CENTER**



## Volunteer with Loudoun Cares

It's always a good time to think about volunteering. Check out volunteer opportunities with Loudoun Cares Volunteer Center. The Volunteer Center is the one-stop resource connecting nonprofit organizations in Loudoun County to individuals in the community looking for a place to volunteer their time and resources.

[Volunteer Now](#)



## Share This Newsletter!

Do you have a friend or a neighbor who would benefit from the information in this newsletter? Go ahead and forward this newsletter to them!

My office is working to ensure as many Catocin residents as possible are being informed about important issues - whether those are public hearing notices, road closure announcements, inclement weather advisories, or other updates on issues of importance to the district and to the county.

If you're the friend who got this newsletter, and you're interesting in getting more of them, click the button to subscribe.

[Subscribe](#)

Sincerely,

Caleb Kershner

Customer Contact Data Notice

Sent by stacy.carey@loudoun.gov powered by

