



Welcome to the May edition of the Dulles Direct Newsletter. In this edition, I have important updates about the timing and location of the next **Dulles South elementary school** and the future of the **Braddock Road/ Pleasant Valley** (Cox Farms) intersection.

The Board has been fully immersed in work sessions on Phase II of Metro and is now moving into the outreach portion of the deliberations. There are many opportunities coming up for citizens to get involved in the Metro discussions. One of these opportunities is a **Town Hall Meeting** that I will be holding on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Stone Hill Middle school. The facts regarding the Metro decision will be presented at this meeting and residents will have an opportunity to share their views. More details on this and other opportunities are also below.

### **Citizen Appointments**

**Commuter Bus Advisory Board:** Do you ride the Loudoun County Transit bus system and want to have a say in its future? I am accepting applications to serve as the Dulles District representative on the Commuter Bus Advisory Board. You must ride the bus regularly and live in the Dulles District. Qualified candidates who would like to be considered for the appointment can email their resume to [Matt.Letourneau@loudoun.gov](mailto:Matt.Letourneau@loudoun.gov). If you would like more information on this board, please [click here](#).

**Heritage Commission:** The Board has confirmed my nomination of Bob Lynd, a resident of Stone Ridge and a former member of the Baltimore County Historic Landmark Commission, to serve as the Dulles District representative on the Loudoun County Heritage Commission. The commission is dedicated to the preservation of Loudoun's past, including historical sites and buildings.

**Aging Commission:** I have nominated Catherine Clark, a resident of Belle Terra, to be the Dulles District representative on the Aging Commission. Catherine has a strong volunteer background and is enthusiastic about taking care of our seniors. I expect her nomination to be confirmed by the full Board at our June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Legislative Update**

**FY13 Budget:** At the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board voted 8-1 to appropriate \$7.9 million in state funding to the School Board for use in the FY13 budget. The Board was initially concerned that teacher retirement benefits had been underfunded in the School Board budget, but additional funds have been identified to cover that responsibility for FY13. In addition, the School Board has committed to working with the Board of Supervisors to make our retired teacher benefits system solvent with a stable funding supply in future years. The Board's action does not raise the tax rate, and I was pleased to support it.

**Future Dulles South Elementary School (ES-21) Update:** At its June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Supervisors will be considering my Board Member Initiative to amend the FY13-18 Capital Improvement Plan to accelerate construction of ES-21 and place it at a site adjacent to Lunsford Middle School. My amendment would allow the school to be constructed in time for the 2014 school year, with the item being placed on bond referendum this November.

My amendment would reverse the current position of the Board, which was to leave ES-21 in FY14 (opening in the 2015 school year) and place it on the East Gate site. The Board adopted that position on a 5-3-1 vote despite my objection and the objection of Dulles District School Board Representative Jeff Morse. Since that time, the Board has received more information about the East Gate site which I believe clearly demonstrates that it would not be possible to build a school there. In addition, LCPS projections show that Dulles South elementary schools will be over enrolled by more than 500 students by 2014, creating a clear need for a new school sooner rather than later.

The site adjacent to Lunsford, known as Grant Perkins, is already owned by LCPS and can be utilized in such a way that will still leave room for other county needs. Building the school at Grant Perkins in 2013 will save over \$6 million compared to building in 2014 at East Gate, so it is also the fiscally responsible thing to do. I would encourage residents who agree with my position to contact the full Board of Supervisors by email at [bos@loudoun.gov](mailto:bos@loudoun.gov). You can also come to Leesburg and speak to the Board on June 5<sup>th</sup> during the public input portion of the meeting. The meeting starts at 4 p.m. with public comment beginning as early as 6 p.m.

**Braddock/Pleasant Valley:** One of the worst traffic choke points in the region is Braddock Road at the intersection of Pleasant Valley, near Cox Farms. This intersection has not been improved because it is in Fairfax County, and Fairfax has never had much interest in fixing it. However, I think that something must be done and have been working with Delegates David Ramadan and Jim LeMunyon on a plan to improve it. The three of us have been working with VDOT on a plan that would add turn lanes and a traffic light to the intersection. We estimate the cost of these improvements to be around \$2.5 million. I believe this project is feasible under a cost sharing agreement between Loudoun County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

At the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board will be considering my Board Member Initiative to tentatively commit to funding \$1 million from Loudoun for these improvements. Delegates Ramadan and LeMunyon and Senator Dick Black will then work with the Commonwealth to obtain their share. Because the project is in Fairfax County, Loudoun cannot use existing proffer funds for its portion. County staff will be presenting funding options to the Board for their consideration.

I want to caution that everything I've discussed is tentative, and there are no guarantees that the Commonwealth will fund the project. But I'm hopeful that my colleagues will agree to commit Loudoun to our share. Once again, it certainly would not hurt to contact the full board at [bos@loudoun.gov](mailto:bos@loudoun.gov) if you support my effort, and you can also speak in person during the public comment period of the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in Leesburg.

**North/South Access:** At the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Meeting, the Board voted 8-1 to revise the 2030 Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) to show an ultimate condition of six lanes within a 150-foot right-of-way for Northstar Boulevard from the Prince William County line to Braddock Road. I supported restoring this southern link to 6 lanes as it will allow for better traffic flow from I-95 and points south to Loudoun. I went into considerable detail on this issue in previous newsletters, but to reiterate, the CTP is a future planning document—no construction will begin simply because the roadway is indicated on the County's planning map.

**Metro:** The Board has been spending a great deal of time considering our upcoming decision whether to opt-in or opt-out of Metro. We are currently considering various funding options, including paying for Metro out of the general fund, special tax districts, and a commercial and industrial tax. Nothing has been decided at this point. I would strongly encourage residents to pay close attention to this debate as many of these decisions could impact you directly (for instance, the special tax districts could include part or all of the Dulles District). I will do my best to keep you updated.

In addition to my Town Hall Meeting (details below), the County is hosting several information sessions as well as a Countywide Public Input Session. There will be an informal information session on May 30<sup>th</sup> at Freedom High School in South Riding from 7-9 p.m. where staff will be available to answer questions about the project. On Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., the Board will be hosting a Dulles Rail Public Input session at the Government Center in Leesburg. I recommend that anyone interested in speaking sign up in advance by calling 703-777-0200.

## **Dulles District Update**

**Town Hall Meeting:** I will be holding my second quarterly Dulles Direct Town Hall Meeting on **Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** at Stone Hill Middle School (23415 Evergreen Ridge Drive, Ashburn) beginning at 7 p.m. While I will provide updates about several of the issues I mentioned above, the primary focus will be Metro. I have invited Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet to give a presentation regarding the facts about Metro so citizens can understand what the Board's options are and what they will cost. I will then share my thoughts on the project before turning the time over to members of the public to share their views. While the Town Hall Meeting will be open to all, priority for questions and comments will be given to citizens of the Dulles District.

**Youth in Government Day:** On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, students from the county's high schools spent the day learning about the functions of local government and observing a portion of the Board of Supervisors meeting. In addition, one student sat with me at the dais during the Board's Business Meeting. I had an enjoyable lunch with him and three of his classmates from Freedom High School, and wish them all the best as they pursue college careers.

## Announcements

**Juror Appreciation Month:** The Board approved a resolution to honor citizens who participate in the jury system in Loudoun County. Clerk of the Circuit Court Gary M. Clemens requested the Board adopt a resolution marking May as Juror Appreciation Month. The Board was advised that 45,000 citizens receive a survey to determine their qualification to serve as a juror. Among that group, 22,000 will receive a juror summons to potentially report for jury duty and roughly 12,000 will actually report to the Courthouse for jury duty. I supported this resolution and extend my appreciation to those residents of the Dulles District who have served jury duty in the Loudoun County Circuit Court.

**Celebrate South Riding:** The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrate South Riding will be held on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 5 p.m.-11 p.m. and Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12 p.m.-10 p.m. This event will include music, rides, performances, fireworks and more. For additional information, including ticket prices, please visit [www.southriding.net/events](http://www.southriding.net/events).

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