



Commonwealth Commits \$1 Million in Matching Funds to Improve Braddock/Pleasant Valley Intersection

Yesterday in Richmond, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) made funding decisions on dozens of road projects throughout the state. As I've previously discussed in newsletters, at my request last year, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted to allocate \$1 million to improve the intersection of Braddock and Pleasant Valley Road in Fairfax County. Our decision was the first time Loudoun has funded a road construction project outside our borders.

With strong support from Delegates David Ramadan and Jim LeMunyon, Loudoun's commitment prompted the CTB to award \$600,000 for design work at the intersection. The result of that work is a concept for a roundabout at the intersection that will significantly improve traffic flow and safety. The cost estimate, including design, for this concept is about \$3 million.

Loudoun County Transportation staff prepared an application to the Commonwealth for matching funds to receive the rest of the money needed. In order to boost our application, the Board of Supervisors included another \$200,000 in the FY14 budget for this project, bringing our total commitment to \$1.2 million.

Yesterday, in response to our application, the CTB awarded Braddock and Pleasant Valley an additional \$1 million, bringing the total allocated to \$2.8 million. While we are still \$200,000 short, this additional funding is enough for VDOT to proceed with the design and engineering process for the intersection.

Given the environmental and logistical issues that exist at the intersection, the design and engineering process will take about a year. At this point, my plan is to try to obtain the additional \$200,000 needed from the CTB next year as the design process is wrapping up, so that construction could begin by the end of 2014.

I know that this intersection is a constant source of frustration for many Loudoun drivers. There is no question that it takes far too long to build roads and fix problems in Northern Virginia, but

to make any progress at all takes teamwork. I'm thankful to my colleagues on the Loudoun Board of Supervisors for supporting my requests for funding, and for County staff for their work to put us in line for VDOT funds. I'd also like to thank Delegates Ramadan and LeMunyon for their continued support, and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for endorsing Loudoun's application.

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