



## **NEWS ALERT: Bull Run Post Office Road Paving Agreement Finalized**

I'm pleased to announce that after several years of discussion, the Board of Supervisors and VDOT have formally approved a plan that will pave Bull Run Post Office Road (BRPO) in Fiscal Year 2015. BRPO currently is seeing more than 1,000 vehicle trips a day. The section that will be paved is south of Braddock Road and .68 miles north of the Fairfax County line.

At last night's Public Hearing, the Board of Supervisors approved Loudoun's FY2015-FY2020 Secondary Road Six-Year Plan. Included in that plan is an additional \$1.5 million to pave BRPO to VDOT's Rural Rustic Road standard. \$989,000 has already been appropriated for this project. There is already \$120,000 in FY2015 Secondary Road funding and another \$300,000 has been requested through a different VDOT program to round out the total funding needed to pave the road.

The Rural Rustic Road standard allows qualifying roads to be paved at a significantly lower cost. The concept is to pave an existing unpaved road with a compacted or impervious surface on the same horizontal and vertical alignment as the prior gravel area. Since this is not total reconstruction, the paving should be accomplished in a shorter time frame.

The estimate for a "normal" paving project was in excess of \$8 million. While the Board had tentatively scheduled paving for BRPO in a previous six year plan, the General Assembly dramatically reduced Loudoun's allocation for unpaved road funds during their last session. It became necessary to pursue the Rural Rustic Road standards for unpaved roads in Loudoun as a result of these budget cuts—otherwise, there would be almost no chance of any improvements. Pave in place is not a perfect solution, but at least it will improve conditions. I receive frequent complaints and requests for maintenance for BRPO, particularly after rain and snow.

In the days following the General Assembly's budget cut, there was a great deal of discussion about which roads would be funded and which would have to be dropped from the plan. While I have worked for several years to ensure that BRPO would be funded, I would also like to thank Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott York and his staff, staff from the Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure, and VDOT for all of their work to ensure that BRPO was included in the final plan. Chairman York has been a great ally in my efforts to improve roads in the Dulles District.

I also want to mention that Fleetwood Road between Route 50 and Evergreen Mills Road is also slated for paving in 2016. As of now, only FY2015 funds have actually been allocated, but Fleetwood is scheduled for funding in FY15 and FY16. This is also a much-needed improvement.