



## Dulles Direct Newsletter January 2016

Welcome to the January edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. I have a lot to update you on in this newsletter, but obviously the big news locally has been the blizzard that hit Loudoun County last week.

I know it has been a frustrating time, and issues remain on both primary and secondary roads. The County has been working closely with VDOT to help them identify those areas and devote resources to them. I'm very appreciative of the long hours and hard work that County employees staffing our Emergency Operations Center put in, as well as members of the Loudoun County Fire Rescue Department, the Sheriff's Office, and the VDOT Loudoun Residency personnel. There were in some cases truly heroic efforts put forward to assist those in need during the storm.

There will be plenty of time for post mortems and lessons learned. I've received some questions about that and what can be done in the future to lessen the impact. The crux of the problem in this storm was the lack of available equipment and personnel. As I mentioned during my Facebook updates, "normal" snowplows that do the bulk of the work in a snowstorm simply couldn't cut it with this much snow. As many of you saw firsthand, they got stuck, sometimes for hours, and ended up taking resources away from snow clearing efforts in order to free them.

### In This Issue

[FY2017 Budget Update](#)

[Route 50 Taskforce Initiative](#)

[Croson/Mooreview Pedestrian Paths](#)

[Dominion Power Lines Update](#)

[Boards and Commissions](#)

[Paul VI High School](#)

[Mooreview Parkway](#)

[Announcements](#)



A few people asked why VDOT didn't have the proper equipment on hand from the get-go. The answer is that it doesn't exist in this region. They don't own it, and it's not easy to acquire. VDOT did end up procuring heavy equipment from across the Mid Atlantic and New England, but given that this storm impacted the entire East Coast, they couldn't get it ahead of time because those places weren't sure if they needed it. Short of the General Assembly deciding to spend many millions of dollars to buy large quantities of heavy equipment, I'm not sure this is a solvable problem. Of course, there are always individual things that can be done better even with existing resources, and I'm sure we all will be looking at that. I will also point out that this wasn't just a VDOT problem-roads in the area cities and towns that are responsible for their own plowing didn't fare any better. And HOA's had the same problem-their contractors didn't have and couldn't get enough of the right equipment either.

We are now easing back into things, with the County government reopening late in the week. Monday is no doubt going to be challenging because schools are back in session, and I anticipate regular openings for the federal government. Commutes will likely be worse than normal, and walking routes are probably going to be impacted. I've talked to the County liaisons about making sure that work is being done over the weekend around those schools, and the County has put its own equipment onto LCPS properties to help the system clear out parking lots. Please try to have continued patience-hopefully some warmer weather will help take care of some of these problems naturally.

Now onto other matters. In this newsletter I have updates on a number of items including Dominion's power line project, Mooreview Parkway, and the FY2017 budget.

### **Board of Supervisors Assignments**

First, information on changes for us on the Board of Supervisors. Last month, I shared with you information on the new members and how the makeup of the Board is changing with the new term. There have also been

**Matthew F. Letourneau**  
Dulles District Supervisor  
Loudoun County Board of  
Supervisors

Chairman  
[Finance, Government  
Operations and Economic  
Development Committee](#)

Chairman  
[Rt. 28 Transportation  
Improvement District  
Commission](#)

Vice Chairman  
[Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments  
Board of Directors](#)

Commissioner  
[Northern Virginia  
Transportation  
Commission](#)

Member  
[Region Forward Coalition](#)

### **Contact Me**

#### **Mailing Address:**

1 Harrison Street, S.E.,  
5th Floor  
P.O. Box 7000  
Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

#### **E-Mail:**

[matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov](mailto:matt.letourneau@loudoun.gov)  
[v](#)

#### **Office Phone:**

(703) 771-5069

#### **Chief of Staff:**

[Monica Filyaw](#)

#### **Legislative Aide:**

[Tom Parker](#)

### **Quick Links**

changes to our meeting schedule and my assignments- including some new ones.

Each year the Board takes up organizational matters relating to meeting dates, committee assignments and appointments to regional boards and commissions. The Board has changed its meeting schedule for Business Meetings to take place the first Tuesday and third Thursday of each month. Public Hearings will continue to be held on the second Wednesday of each month. Business Meetings will start later at 5:00 pm and Public Hearings will continue to begin at 6:00 pm.

I will continue to serve as Chairman of the Board's Finance Committee, which is now known as the Finance, Government Operations, and Economic Development Committee. Rather than having a separate Economic Development Committee, we decided to incorporate those issues within the Finance Committee since much of the structural heavy lifting on economic development occurred last term.

My regional assignments have changed slightly from the last term. I will continue as a member of the Washington Area Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors as I have for the last four years. Earlier this month, I was elected Vice Chairman of the Board representing Virginia. The COG Board chairmanship rotates between Maryland, Virginia and the District, meaning that I am now in line to Chair the Board in three years. If that happens, it will be the first time someone from Loudoun has ever chaired this organization. My new role on the Executive Committee will require me to spend some additional time on regional issues and on governance of the Council of Governments, which as the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization has a large staff and its own substantial budget.

I am also representing the Board on COG's Region Forward Coalition. Region Forward is an initiative that was launched by COG in 2010. The Coalition is focused on economic development and creating a Regional Activity Center Investment Plan to guide

Like me on  
Facebook 

Join My Mailing List 

[Supervisor  
Letourneau's Website](#)

[Loudoun County  
Government Website](#)

[VDOT 511 Traffic  
Information](#)

[VDOT Snow Plowing  
Information](#)

[Loudoun County Traffic  
Incident Map](#)

[Sign Up for Alert  
Loudoun](#)

[Loudoun Express  
Request \(LEx\)  
Citizen Request  
System](#)

[Loudoun County  
Government  
Master Calendar](#)

public and private stakeholders in making strategic, coordinated investments in the Region's Activity Centers.

I will also continue as a member of the Route 28 Transportation Improvement District Commission, which I currently chair. The Commission administers the tax district that was formed to provide Route 28 improvements from Route 7 to I-66 and is responsible for the widenings and interchanges that have been completed over the past several years.

There are a few new roles that I am assuming this year. I will be serving as Loudoun's Commissioner on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC). NVTC is made up of local elected officials in Virginia that are part of Metro's service area and manages financial resources, deploys new technologies, and secures funding for transit in Northern Virginia. The Commission supports Virginia Railway Express (co-owner), and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, (Metrobus and Metrorail). One of my responsibilities at NVTC over the next few years will be to negotiate an operating agreement for Loudoun with WMATA.

Finally, I will be joining the Board of Directors of the Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA). DATA is a Transportation Management Association that identifies transportation needs; promotes steps to meet those needs; and to work towards a more effective transportation system in the area around Dulles.

### **Commissioner Salmon Re-elected Chairman of the Planning Commission**

Congratulations to Dulles District Planning Commissioner Jeff Salmon on being elected Chairman of that body for the second year in a row. I reappointed Commissioner Salmon to serve another four year term at the Board's first meeting of the year. Jeff has proven to be a hardworking, diligent Commissioner who gives careful consideration to land use applications. I provide more information on appointees to other County

Boards and Commissions and opportunities available to serve below.

One last thing before getting down to business. Welcome to Kids R Kids Learning Center in South Riding. I was pleased to join them for a ribbon cutting ceremony earlier this month. The new facility features 11 classrooms in addition to classes in theater, robotics, computer programming, public speaking and engineering.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### **FY2017 BUDGET UPDATE**

In last month's newsletter, I shared with you details on the bleak revenue growth projections that the County is dealing with going into the FY2017 budget. While things have slightly improved over last month, year to year values of some residential properties have not grown at the rate we have experienced over the last several years or that was anticipated this year.

The new Board of Supervisors was given the opportunity to reaffirm the guidance set by the prior Board at the first meeting of the year. The Board voted to provide guidance for the County Administrator to

basically prepare two versions of his proposed budget. The first would be at the equalized rate (estimated at \$1.130/\$100) and the second would be at the current rate (\$1.135/\$100). Because the equalized rate tends to fluctuate, we stipulated that if the current rate were to be lower than the equalized rate, he will only prepare his budget based on that equalized rate. I expect the County Administrator to present his proposed budget to the Board on February 10 at 5:00 pm.

This will kick off budget work sessions for the Board with the Finance Committee reviewing the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) at our meeting the next night and Budget Public Hearings scheduled for the following dates and times:

- Thursday, February 25, 3:00 pm- Loudoun County Government Center (1 Harrison Street, SE, in Leesburg)
- Saturday, February 27, 9:00 am- Loudoun County Public School Administration Building (21000 Education Court in Ashburn)
- Monday, February 29, 6:00 pm- Loudoun County Government Center (1 Harrison Street, SE, in Leesburg)

Last month, I also shared with you the self-imposed "debt cap" that the County had limiting our ability to issue more than \$200 million in debt within a given year. This cap was set in 2006 and had never been revisited to account for growth in the County. Upon review by County staff, they found that the cap could be adjusted and still not impact the other financial guidelines that are important to the rating agencies.

An increase in the debt cap was brought back up for consideration at our first meeting in January and this time it passed (6-3). With this increase from \$200 million per year to \$225 million per year, it gives us more flexibility to work on changes to the school CIP and address some anticipated school crowding issues sooner than otherwise planned. It should be emphasized that in the event of a serious economic downturn, the Board would back projects out of the

Capital Improvement Plan and not come close to issuing that much debt anyway-this action in no way obligates us to spend any particular amount of money. It just reflects the fact that the County has grown. Also, as a reminder-we aren't the federal government and we don't borrow money we can't pay back. The County maintains a 10% pay as you go policy which requires us to fund with cash 10% of all debt, and we routinely pay off projects early and at low interest rates.

### **School Budget**

The Superintendent presented his proposed \$1.07 billion operating budget to the School Board at the beginning of this month. It includes a total increase of \$86.7 million (8.8%) over last year. The increase would cover the cost of 1,978 anticipated new students, increased full day kindergarten offerings, pay increases for staff, and an accelerated opening of one of the Academies of Loudoun programs. A portion of the total budget increase is proposed to be funded by increases in State funding that were announced by the Governor. The increase in local tax funding proposed by the Superintendent is \$58.3 million in local (County) tax funding. At the equalized rate (\$1.130) there would be an estimated \$34.8 million gap.

The School Board is now working on their proposed budget and are expected to present it to the Board on February 22 at 6:00 pm. The debate over the operating budget can sometimes be contentious. At the onset, I will repeat what I always say at the beginning: in real dollar terms, the school budget is not going to be cut. It will be increased. The debate will be about how much.

In addition to the operating budget, there will be a lot of discussion around the schools capital budget. Some of you may have received communication from staff at Mercer regarding the potential use of trailers located at Champe to accommodate overcrowding issues at the school. The email was premature given the discussions that I and Jeff Morse are involved in with LCPS staff. We want to make sure that all avenues are being

investigated prior to embarking on such a path. If I'm going to support such a plan on the Board of Supervisors, I need to be convinced it's the only way to deal with crowding.

### **Route 50 Taskforce Initiative**

At last week's Business Meeting, the Board approved an initiative that I brought forward with Supervisor Tony Buffington that would have staff begin the creation of a new Route 50 Taskforce.

Some of you may remember a prior effort that was in place to plan for the future development of the 50 corridor and proposed design guidelines that would allow it to become a gateway to the County. You can see the results of those policies in some of the newer developments along Route 50-visually appealing setbacks and landscaping.

This new taskforce would look to seek the cooperation of Fairfax County at addressing the challenges of the 50 corridor not just in Loudoun, but into Fairfax as well. We need to work together to identify, fund and implement improvements that will help traffic move through the corridor more efficiently.

County staff will work on a proposal for how the taskforce will be made up and work to seek agreement with Fairfax County. They will report back to the Board to seek approval and move forward with the effort. I look forward to getting this up and running and seeing how we can work more cooperatively with our neighbors to the east to address the issues we have on Route 50.

### **Croson/Mooreview Pedestrian Facilities**

The Board also approved the use of supplemental VDOT funding in the amount of \$314,000 to fund an effort initiated during the last Board's term to design and construct missing pedestrian paths in the area of Mooreview Parkway, Claude Moore Drive and Croson Lane. The paths would connect a section that currently ends at Quail Pond Place on the north side of Croson Lane. Today, to continue on a path pedestrians would

need to cross over Croson Lane to connect to a trail on the south side of the road.

Completion of this missing segment will provide a safer path for pedestrians and bicyclists looking to access Mooreview Parkway and the Southern Walk Shopping Center in Broadlands-and eventually Metro.

## **DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES**

### **Dominion Power Lines Project Update**

I know things have been quiet publicly about the power lines, but behind the scenes things have been very busy. The hearings that were scheduled for the beginning of February will still take place, but they will not be evidentiary hearings as originally proposed. They will be to continue to receive input on the proposals currently on the table. When they do occur, the County Attorney continues to secure experts in various aspects of the case that is being built against the proposed power line route. Last month, I shared with you that the Board approved up to \$75,000 as a match in funding from private contributions. To date, private contributions are up to \$70,000. These contributions are from property owners and homeowner's groups along the Rt. 50 corridor.

You may remember that the County proposed several alternatives to Dominion's preferred route. Our goal was to keep the power lines off of Route 50 between Loudoun County Parkway and Northstar Boulevard. Since that time, we have received feedback from various groups and the Airports Authority. As a result of all of that, we have been working with the Airports Authority to look at alterations to the County's preferred alternatives that would be acceptable to them. This new alternative would run west of 606 from the starting point near Evergreen Mills Road instead of directly next to Route 606. Dominion has been able to review this change and determined that it would be workable from a technical standpoint. We are now seeking to get this new alternative in front of the SCC

so that it can be on the table during the rest of the process.

We continue to wait for an order from the SCC for new hearing dates and I will share them with you once they are received.

### **Commission and Board Confirmations/Openings**

In addition to the reappointment of Jeff Salmon as the Dulles District Planning Commissioner, I also reappointed several other Dulles District residents to serve on County Boards and Commissions.

- Randy Feleski- Advisory Commission on Youth
- Michael Rhodes- Communications Commission
- Ram Kuppuswami- Community Criminal Justice Board
- Angela Drews- Heritage Commission
- Kristen Reed- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board
- Shawn Sutherland- Transportation Improvement and Safety Commission
- Mita Mathur- Art Advisory Committee
- Angela Campbell- Courthouse Grounds and Facilities Committee

Thanks to all of them for their service. I am still accepting applications for the following boards:

- Commission on Aging
- Communications Commission
- Transit Advisory Board
- Library Board of Trustees
- Lyme Disease Commission

You must be a Dulles District Resident to serve. There are also at large openings that are not district specific. For more information on all Boards and Commissions and to download a copy of the required application form, visit <https://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?nid=87>.

### **Paul VI High School Update**

As I shared with you last year, the Arlington Diocese has announced their intention to relocate Paul VI High

School to property they have owned for several years on the south side of Braddock near the intersection with Riding Center Drive. The Diocese is in the early stages of securing the needed approvals from the County to construct the facility and have provided an expected 2020 opening.

The Diocese has asked the Economic Development Authority (EDA) to issue Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$70 million to fund the construction of this new school. The bonds allow the Diocese to receive more favorable interest rates.

Though use of the bonds required approval by the EDA and the Board of Supervisors, neither the EDA or the County are obligated to pay the bonds in the case of an unlikely default. The Board approved the request, and the EDA granted the Bonds last week. The bonds cannot be used for exclusively religious parts of the project-so the chapel that will be constructed at the high school will be paid for from separate funding. There is ample precedent for this type of arrangement, and it is open to all non-profits embarking on projects like this.

The next step is for the Diocese to file a legislative application with the County to build the school, which will be reviewed by staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors. I have already had some dialogue with the Diocese about this application, and have provided some guidance as to the layout from a traffic standpoint.

#### **Mooreview Parkway Update**

You may recall that I secured \$6.3 million to construct the missing segment of Mooreview Parkway between Old Ryan Road and Amberleigh Farm Drive. Since acquiring the needed design plans from Moorefield Station, we have seen significant delays on the project. Most of the delays center on a needed agreement with Columbia Gas for the relocation of two gas transmission lines crossing the roadway alignment.

County staff has been engaged with Columbia Gas since 2014 and have found them to be completely nonresponsive to our requests for information. Finally last month we found out from Columbia Gas that the cost of relocating the lines will be \$1.8 million. This is significantly more than what was anticipated.

Around this same time, Columbia Gas requested easements from the County for gas line installations in other areas. The easement requests were before the Board this month for Public Hearing. The County and the Loudoun Valley Estates HOA have had concerns about the easements previously granted to this company. At my request, the Board did not grant the new easements at this time and is asking the utility to work with us on fixing the current issues before we grant the easements.

Our hope is to get the agreement in place and the pipeline work completed this spring allowing us to bid the project for construction and hopefully get started before next winter.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LC Transit Request for Route Suggestions**

Loudoun County is accepting suggestions from the public for new and improved bus routes that would go into effect in 2017. Suggestions can include modifications to existing routes or brand new service in places where there is no service.

There are limited resources, so not all suggested routes will be developed and the changes won't happen immediately. The Board of Supervisors must endorse and approve the funding for the recommended routes. If the Board approves the suggested routes, they will be included in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget with service scheduled to begin in July of 2017. In our area, I am already working to bring at least one long haul bus route to the East Gate park and ride lot. When the County takes delivery of new transit buses this year, we can reallocate a few long haul buses to other routes.

Suggestions may be sent by email to [transitcomments@loudoun.gov](mailto:transitcomments@loudoun.gov) or mailed to:

Paul Mounier  
Transit and Commuter Services Manager  
Department of Transportation and Capital  
Infrastructure  
P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg VA 20177

In order for staff to have time to evaluate the proposals and develop cost and operational impacts for the Board of Supervisors to consider, comments must be received by March 1, 2016.

More information is available online at [www.loudoun.gov/transit](http://www.loudoun.gov/transit).

### **Submit Your Event for Loudoun Small Business Week**

The Department of Economic Development is making preparations for Loudoun Small Business Week, May 16-22. Each day of that week will feature workshops or networking opportunities focused around a specific topic. The anchor events are currently being planned, and they would love to flesh out the schedule with additional activities. Visit [their website](#) to let them know if you'd like to offer a workshop that would be helpful for startups and entrepreneurs, or whether you could host a networking event.

### **DMV2Go**

The DMV2Go mobile customer service center will be at the Dulles South Public Safety Center (25216 Loudoun County Parkway in South Riding) on Wednesday, February 3 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The mobile customer service center allows residents to apply for or renew your ID card (available for adults and children), apply for or renew your driver's license, update your DMV information, obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals, and transcripts, order disabled parking placards or plates and other services.

DMV 2 Go is a fleet of five mobile customer service centers ready to bring DMV services to Virginians at convenient locations. For more information on this program and the services provided, please visit [www.dmvNOW.com](http://www.dmvNOW.com).

### **LCSO Quarterly Meeting**

The Dulles South Sheriff's Station (25216 Loudoun County Parkway in South Riding) will hold their next quarterly meeting on February 1, beginning at 7:00 pm. There will be two main topics:

- Review Dulles South 2015 yearly crime statistics and significant events that have occurred in your communities
- Loudoun County Fire and Rescue staff to teach citizens about preventing cold-weather injuries, to include information about ice dangers and winter sports safety.

### **Dulles South Food Pantry**

The Dulles South Food Pantry is in need now more than ever. They are now serving an average of 70 families at every distribution (over 300 people). Additionally, the Pantry provides almost 100 Friday Food Packs (weekend food for kids) to the schools in the Champe and Freedom HS clusters every week. The Dulles South Food Pantry is open to distribute food the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 5 pm to 7 pm located at 24757 Evergreen Mill Road, Dulles, VA, 20166.

The Dulles South Food Pantry is a multi-faith emergency food pantry. They provide nutritious food, personal supplies and other services to those in need in Dulles South area that come to them regardless of income, faith or other criteria. They are an all-volunteer organization focused both on feeding the hungry and promoting the self-sufficiency of those they serve. Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry are tax deductible. The Dulles South Food Pantry needs the following unexpired food: canned chicken & tuna, soups and stews with protein, 1 or 2 lb. bags of rice or rice mixes, pasta and pasta sauce (no glass please), breakfast cereal and pancake mix, granola bars, fruit (in

cans, plastic or dried), canned or dried beans of all types, toothpaste, shampoo and grocery store gift cards in any amount. They welcome monetary contributions and volunteers as well. They are able to accept food donations at the Pantry 10-11:30 am Mondays and Wednesdays and 7-8:00 pm Monday nights or at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center located at 24950 Riding Center Drive in South Riding during business hours. For additional information please visit their website at [www.dsfp.org](http://www.dsfp.org).

### **Snow Removal Information**

Real time plow information is available during a snow event of more than two inches at [www.VDOTplows.org](http://www.VDOTplows.org). If you feel your street may have been missed you can call 1-800-FOR-ROAD to file a report directly with VDOT.

Did someone forward this to you? Click below to sign up to receive future updates directly.

Join My Mailing List



Copyright © 2016. All Rights Reserved.



Supervisor Matt Letourneau | 1 Harrison Street, S.E., 5th Floor | P.O. Box 7000 | Leesburg  
| VA | 20177