



Dear Leesburg Resident,

I hope everyone is staying cool this July. The Board takes its recess in August, reconvening September 3rd. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Route 15 North

At the July 18th Board meeting, we discussed the Safety and Operations Study on Route 15 from Whites Ferry Road to the Maryland State Line. The Board debated the 3 improvement options that over 1,000 members of the public had weighed in on.

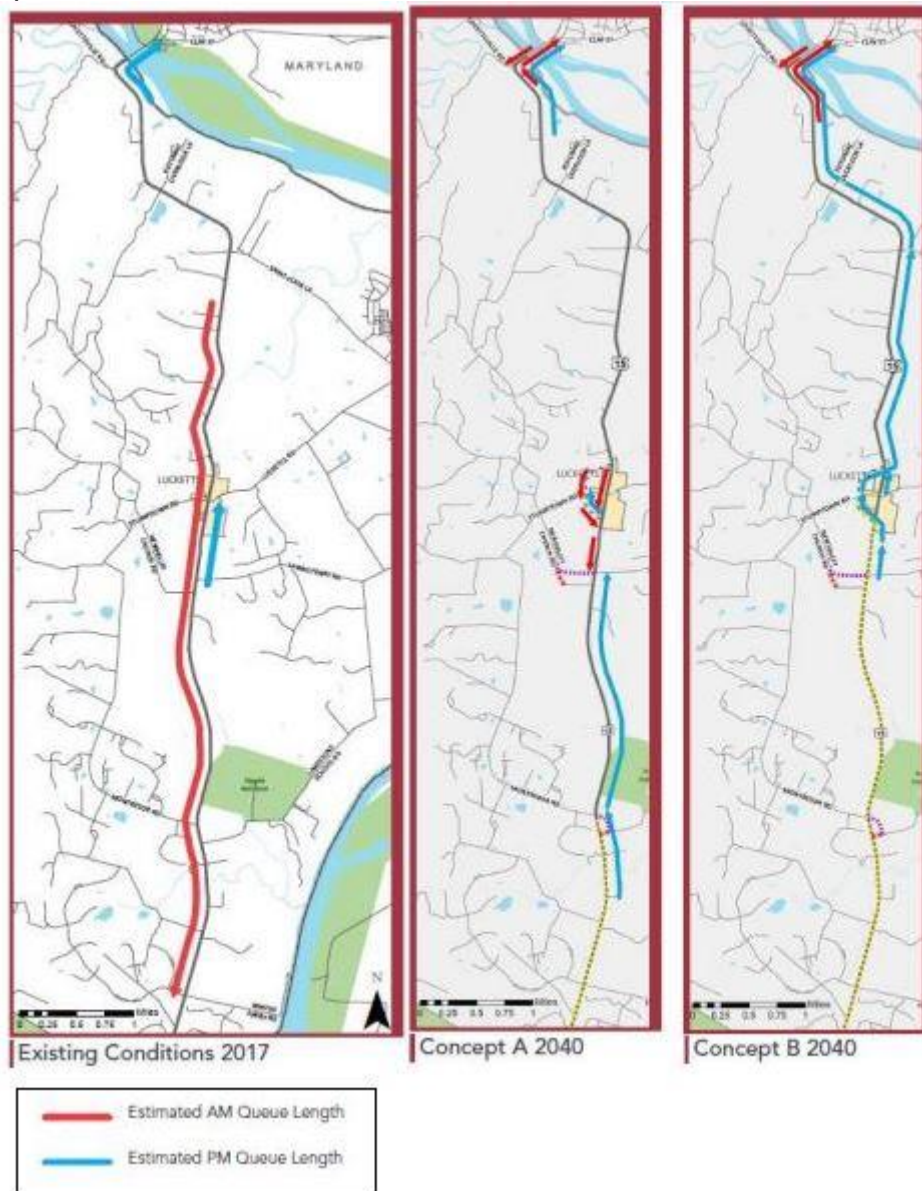
The following improvement options were identified through the public process and the traffic analysis.

- **Concept A - Safety Improvements:** This option would improve Route 15 to a two-lane, median divided roadway from Montresor Road to Saint Clair Lane. North of Saint Clair Lane, the road would be two-lanes undivided with the travel lanes and the shoulders improved to meet the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) current standards. This option would include a bypass around the Village of Lucketts; the alignment and location of the bypass would be determined during the design phase of the project.
- **Concept B - Safety and Congestion Relief:** This option would improve Route 15 to a four-lane, median divided roadway from Montresor Road to the southern portion of the Village of Lucketts. Between Lucketts and Saint Clair Lane, the road would be two-lanes, with a median. There would be a bypass around the Village of Lucketts - four lanes, median divided, to Stumptown Road, and two lanes, median

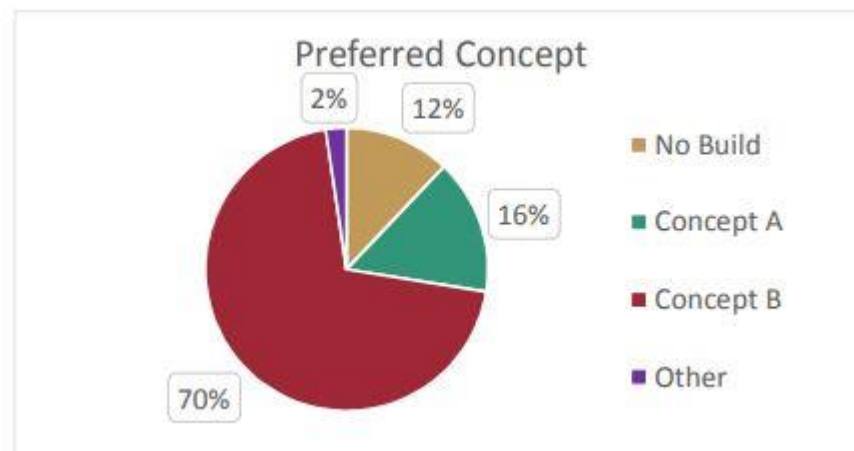
divided, north of Stumptown Road. The alignment and location of the bypass would be determined during the design phase of the project.

- **No Build** - This option would retain the existing 2-lane roadway without making any improvements.

The traffic analysis shows the projected AM (in red) and PM (in blue) peak period queue lengths comparing the existing conditions to Concept A and Concept B in 2040.



At the September 2018 public meeting, seventy percent (70%) of the survey respondents (1,089 discrete responses) selected Concept B as their preferred option. Sixteen percent (16%) of respondents preferred Concept A and twelve percent (12%) of respondents preferred no build.



Route 15 North is often so congested that the County cannot get emergency response vehicles - fire, rescue, and law enforcement - to the scene of any emergency. When emergency vehicles can get through the congestion, handling the emergency generally requires shutting down both northbound and southbound lanes to all traffic, which just aggravates the existing congestion. County staff met with Loudoun County Fire and Rescue (LCFR) and the Sheriff's Office to obtain their input:

LCFR observed that some areas along Route 15 have narrow lane widths which makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass oncoming vehicles; they desire 12-foot lane widths and paved shoulders to accommodate emergency vehicles. LCFR noted that the inadequate shoulders along portions of Route 15 prevent vehicles from being able to move over and make it impossible for emergency vehicles to pass traffic on the right which occasionally causes them to maneuver into oncoming traffic. Many of the emergency vehicles are heavy (up to 47 tons), and require a paved surface; a partial paved/partial reinforced grass shoulder cannot support the weight of the emergency equipment. LCFR supports widening Route 15 to Lucketts either with a center turn lane or median divided four lanes to provide more room for emergency vehicles.

The Sheriff's Office observed that, when emergencies occur on Route 15 North, the responding emergency vehicles usually require a full road closure. Concept A and the No-Build two-lane scenarios would continue to limit law enforcement's ability to route traffic around a crash or emergency. Even a simple traffic stop would remain impossible under the two-lane scenarios,

because there is no place for an offender to pull over. The Sheriff's Office also noted that having a median would help prevent head-on collisions.

In the end, I believe the more options fire and rescue and law enforcement have for keeping people safe, the better, and I believe Concept B accomplishes that. It is also the best option for allowing our emergency responders to do their jobs safely while keeping traffic flowing. I voted with 5 of my colleagues, and 70% of the survey respondents, in favor of Concept B.

Transit Summit

On Tuesday, July 23rd, the Board discussed transit including:

- Current transit operations and plans for the future when the Metrorail Silver Line service begins in Loudoun;
- Current paratransit service and plans for expansion when Metrorail stations open in Loudoun;
- Development of strategies for the use of park and ride lots as the County transitions to Metrorail service;
- The use of the Metrorail parking garages in the interim period between completion of the structures and the start of Metrorail service; and
- The future uses of technology by the Loudoun County Transit system, such as autonomous transit vehicles, electronic, real-time information signs at bus stops, and mobile ticketing.

I requested that staff look at the fee structure for paratransit customers in the Needs Assessment Study which will determine the needs of these customers and modify service to cover those needs. Currently, the SmartTrip system is rapidly becoming obsolete. Staff is interested in Mobile Ticketing, an app for smart phones and tablets, as a possible replacement for the current electronic fare collection system. This new collection system would have to accept SmartBenefits which is used by Federal Government employees. Staff plans to seek grant funding to procure and install a mobile tracking application that is able to handle SmartBenefits.

Douglass Elementary School

At the July 18th Board meeting, the Board directed staff to solicit letters of intent from interested nonprofit organizations for the express purpose of operation, management, preservation and curation of the County's newly acquired 20 Union Street property in Leesburg, which includes the historically significant, former African-American Douglass Elementary School.



The focus for solicited letters of intent would be expressly for the operations, management, preservation and curation of the Douglass Elementary School facility. This would prohibit solicitors from proposing other options, or uses that are inconsistent with preserving the history and culture of the property. I will let you know when a formal schedule is available for the solicitation of the request for letters of intent.

Pennington Garage

The County's new Pennington Parking Garage, at Church and North Street, will open to employees and the public on August 1st. At the same time, the Pennington surface parking lot will close temporarily for renovations. As a result, all members of the public and employees, who currently park in the Pennington surface parking lot will need to park in the new garage. Renovations to the Pennington surface parking lot and Church Street are expected to take approximately two months. The Pennington surface parking lot will reopen for public and employee use once the work is complete.

Please note the following information:

- Vehicular access to the Pennington Garage will be the same as it is currently to the surface parking lot - via Church Street, NE.

- Access to the fourth level of the parking garage will be blocked and restricted until the overall parking garage and surface lot improvements are complete.
- All pedestrians entering and exiting the garage must now follow a new pedestrian path that extends from the southeast corner of the garage to North Street, NE. No pedestrian access will be available through the Pennington Lot or Church Street.
- Parking at the Church Street Lot (adjacent to the Courthouse) will not be impacted at this time. All current parking restrictions will remain in effect.
- Parking at the Semones Lot will not be impacted at this time. Current parking restrictions remain in effect.

Rendering of the new Pennington Parking Garage.



[Loudoun 2019 Comprehensive Plan](#)

At the June 20th business meeting, the Board majority adopted the Loudoun 2019 Comprehensive Plan on an 8 to 1 vote. I appreciate the hard work of staff, stakeholders, Towns and the public but, in the end, I could not support this plan for the following reasons:

- The conversion of Rural Policy land bays P1 and P2 into denser Transition Policy land bays, along with the amount of residential growth in the Transition Policy Area. This conversion will allow for up to 2,700 additional residential units along Evergreen Mills Road just south of

Heritage High School in Leesburg. Our roads cannot handle the additional traffic and our schools cannot easily absorb more students. I would like to see the plan focus most of the residential growth around metro in the Urban Policy Area (below is a table with the residential forecast by policy area).

- The fact that this plan does little to increase housing affordability.
- The decision to change the preferred utility provider in the Leesburg JLMA from the Town of Leesburg to Loudoun Water and the County/Town annexation agreement/corporate boundary line adjustment guideline. Both decisions were made at the last minute and without consultation with the Town Council or the public. Having Loudoun Water as the first option for public utilities in the JLMA is detrimental to the Town and undermines decades of financial planning by the Town.
- The state's mandated 90-day deadline to adopt the plan did not allow us to look at it holistically and meet with as many residents and businesses as we should have.

Residential Development Forecasts 2021-2040

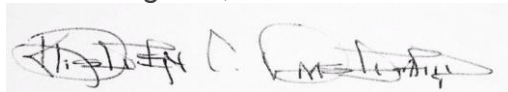
Policy Area	2019 Comprehensive Plan	Revised General Plan	Difference
Urban and Suburban Policy Area	25,550	16,250	9,300
Transition Policy Area	5,840	3,660	2,180
Rural Policy Area/Towns/JLMA	9,560	9,560	0
Total	40,950	29,470	11,480

Monroe Technology Center Update

A Town of Leesburg Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled on Thursday, August 1st at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers, 25 West Market Street in Leesburg about the C.S. Monroe Property Special Exception to allow the construction of a new school facility. You can find information about the application at this [website](#).

Thank you and I hope to see you at an Acoustic on the Green concert at the Town Green this August.

Warm Regards,



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Mayor Kelly Burk's Corner

Summer is upon us with a vengeance. Please take care to avoid the heat when you can. If you must be out in the weather, make sure you have plenty of water, take breaks, find some shade and wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. Any government building is available for anyone to come into and get out of the heat. **DON'T LEAVE KIDS OR ANIMALS IN THE CAR EVEN WITH THE WINDOWS OPEN. THAT IS A DEATH TRAP.**

This summer there are several development issues coming to the council. Included is the proposed Church and Market Street development of 116 multi-family residential units with 5,300 square feet of new retail, 7,500 SF of existing retail, and a 169 parking space structure. It will be located off Church Street across from the county garage building and will replace the parking lot that is located there now. For more information visit this [website](#) or call Scott Parker at 703-777-2420. The Leesburg Town Council will hold only one work session and one town council meeting on August 12th and August 13th.

Another important development is the County Court House Expansion. This project is a county project, but it will impact Leesburg in a very dramatic way this summer. This project will involve building a new courthouse on Church Street. During the construction it will impact parking, street closures, traffic, and noise. If you would like more information on this project, visit this [website](#).

National Night Out at Potomac Station Apartments is Tuesday, August 6th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The Leesburg police will have food and water, games, and bouncing blow up structures and lots of raffles for toys. Come join us and have some fun while meeting the men and women who serve us every day.

2nd Annual **TASTE Leesburg** is Saturday, August 10th from 5:00 to 10:00 pm in the historic downtown. Enjoy different restaurants, food trucks, a wine and beer garden, live music, and entertainment.

9/11 Motorcycle Ride on Friday, August 16th as it comes through downtown Leesburg between 1:15 and 2:30 pm. America's 9/11 Ride is a motorcycle ride that travels to all 3 of the September 11th crash sites. Beginning in Pennsylvania, the ride travels through Maryland to Virginia and eventually to New York. This annual event is a fundraiser for 1st responders. There will be temporary street closures while the ride is parading through Leesburg. For more information, please visit this [website](#).



Business of the Month **Healthy By Nature**

Healthy By Nature is a full-service health food store that strives to empower customers to make the best choice for their own health and has proudly served Loudoun County for over 23 years. In a world of impersonal shopping experiences, we promise to always uphold customer service as our #1 priority! Our passion is rooted in helping others, and part of that is offering reliable information that our community can count on. If you are looking for

guidance in your personal health journey, please stop by our store in Leesburg at 305 East Market Street and chat with us!

Events & Info



Acoustic on the Green Concerts: Every Saturday at 7:00 pm throughout the summer. Come downtown to hear the best local and regional artists perform on the Town Green. Check out the entire line up at this [website](#).

Movies Under the Stars: Free outdoor movies on the Loudoun County Courthouse lawn beginning at approximately 8:30 pm. The next movie is Instant Family on August 16th.

Leesburg's First Friday: Stroll around historic downtown Leesburg on the First Friday of each month to enjoy numerous live music performances throughout the town, art exhibits, wine tastings, lectures, and so much more! Over 45 specialty shops, art galleries, antique shops and restaurants are open until 9 pm or later, many offering free refreshments and/or special sales. August 2nd is Leesburg First Friday from 6 to 9 pm. King Street will be closed to traffic. Come down and enjoy the additional room to walk and revel in the music, food, and drink.



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Sent by kristen.umstattd@loudoun.gov in collaboration with



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