



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement from Supervisor Saines on the W&OD crossing at Sterling Boulevard**

STERLING, VIRGINIA - *"I acknowledge the impact of having an at-grade crossing of the W&OD trail at Sterling Boulevard,"* said Supervisor Saines. *"I understand the differences of opinion on how to handle crossings of this type both from a trail user stand point and a traffic management standpoint, and appreciate the passion of the community in trying to make the intersection safer overall. My hope is that the added awareness will enhance both driver and trail user alertness, both of which are key components to overall safety."*

The improvements currently being installed by NOVA Parks include the installation of a trail user activated rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) warning signal to alert motorists of an active crosswalk ahead. Shortening of the left turn lane into Chase Heritage apartments, reducing the total number of traffic lanes to be crossed. Enlarging the median refuge area to make it safer to stop and wait halfway across the roadway. Widening of the trail approaches on both sides of the road, which will allow more users to stack closer to the road and to cross more rapidly when a traffic breaks occur. These improvements were approved by the Board of Supervisors and NOVA Parks in 2015 and were funded entirely by NOVA Parks. These improvements, including the RRFB system puts this crossing in alignment with other high volume crossings throughout the VDOT system, which have used the RRFB system for many years.

In October of 2016 the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Saines' Board Member Initiative to look at the options for improving the crossing of the W&OD trail at Sterling Boulevard and determining an estimate for design and construction of these options. In December of 2016 the Board approved including discussion of funding for an elevated crossing as a part of the FY18 budget discussions for the FY18-22 Capital Infrastructure Program Budget. Finally as a part of the FY18

Budget approved this year by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, \$7.745 million in funding for FY2021 was formally included as a part of the County's FY18-22 Capital Infrastructure Program budget to be used for the design and construction of an elevated crossing.

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