



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7 pm

Call to Order- Ms. Wendy Henley, President

Ms. Henley called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Approval of the Minutes (Secretary position vacant)

Ms. Henley presented the December minutes and Dale Rumberger motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Henley, approved by show of hands.

Treasurer Report- Mr. James Fenton

Mr. Fenton presented the treasurer's report, indicating a healthy balance in the checking and money market accounts. The CD will mature on October 10th.

Truist Checking	\$1,191.07
CD	\$5,064.88
Total	\$6,255.95

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Report - Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck

Supervisor Storck followed up on several issues brought up in previous meetings. On the various issues:

- Shared the U-Haul article saying that Lorton is the number one place that folks are moving to in Virginia. Fourth largest in the country, based on one-way U Haul rentals.
- **Laurel Crest Drive Ownership.** Approved today at the Board of Supervisors meeting, the drive that goes behind South County High School to Hooes Road. We ultimately had to get VDOT to sign off on taking over maintenance.
- **Pohick Road Sidewalk.** The Board accepted \$1,250,000 in grant funding provided by VDOT for design and construction.
- **Mason Neck Trail.** We got \$2,200,000 funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation for design and construction of the northern part of the trail. The northern section runs from Route 1 to the golf course.
- **Liberty.** There's a possible new tenant, a climbing gym operated by Sportrock.
- **Alpine X.** The public-private partnership has closed. They need financing of half a billion dollars. They can come back to the County when they are ready to do something, but we shouldn't tie the County up anymore. We needed to open it back up and see if there's others who might be interested in in doing something different with the site.
- **Lorton Police Station Staffing.** Every year I've been on the board, the Budget included funding for staffing for the Lorton police station. We had obvious impacts of COVID, and then we in turn had police shortages around the country. We're doing better than most, but our classes still haven't gotten us back to where the police chief, the Deputy County Executive for Public safety, and the County Executive want to be. We have to make progress on staffing that facility in 2025. The chairman is going to have to speak to that as well as the community, because it will come down to the challenges



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of a budget, as well as the impact of doing this on police hours. Franconia police station is going to move to their new office, and they're going to be fully staffed, because they already exist.

- **Site Specific Plan Amendment (SSPA) Process.** We're putting together a new SSPA task force. I will clearly be involving South County members and the South County Federation. Peyton's going to be heading it in my office.
- **Furnace Road Dumping.** We've again been talking with VDOT about that. We made progress, but the snow slowed us down a little bit, and we do expect that this issue will be resolved by VDOT by the end of the month. But it's going to be an ongoing issue. Our state legislators could maybe help us with that and VDOT. If anybody has any ideas, Diego in my office is working with VDOT and others to try to do preventive measures to prohibit or discourage dumping along the road.
- **Synchronization of traffic lights.** My staff has brought a list by the Federation to VDOT, awaiting several responses that we've asked for relating to the Route 1 at Old Colchester Road Light. The Signal Operations Team has thoroughly analyzed and reviewed the data related to the issue. The team finalized adjustments to address both weekday and weekend operations. However, due to the ongoing snow events over the past week, we're unable to implement those timings. Once the roads are clear and proper detector operations were confirmed, the operations team proceeded with making the necessary timing adjustments.
- **Snow Removal.** We had a board motion today to challenge VDOT to do a better job with road clearing. It was very inconsistent. Some places were fantastic, and other places were marginal, and we recognize that we've shared those locations. I've been on Nextdoor, and my staff has been very involved as well, and letting the community know. 98% of our roads are maintained by VDOT. We automatically look to VDOT to do their job. We do what you all do when something's not right, we report to VDOT. Our state delegates and senators might have more to add, they're involved with it as well,
- **Stuff the Bus at Lorton.** At Lidl on Saturday, February 1st from 10 am to 3 pm, benefiting Lorton Community Action Center.
- **The 38th Annual Mount Vernon Town Hall meeting.** Saturday, February 8th at Mount Vernon High School, televised on channel 16.

Question from Andrew Normand, concerning the Pohick Sidewalk, do you have a general idea of how long it's going to take? **Answer,** first step is the design process, which takes a couple years. We may need additional funding, but we're looking at a number of years to completion. **Follow up,** on design, can it just be a four ft wide instead of 10? **Answer,** it has to be fully accessible and ADA compliant, so that means 8 to 10 feet in width.

Question from Dale Rumberger, feedback on Supervisor's emails, can they be shortened? **Answer,** I welcome feedback and review. Please look at the most recent and recommend what should be cut back for readability. **Follow up,** are green road signs for public roads and blue signs for private roads?

Answer, I don't know but Christine will look into it. **Follow up,** there seemed to be a difference is snow removal and that distinction may help the public understand. **Follow up,** on Furnace Road, can there be an agreement to resolve this? **Answer,** we agree, and County Staff agree. The snow has been an issue, should have an update tomorrow.

Comment from Wendy Henley, appreciates the diligence on the Pohick Road sidewalk project.



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Fairfax County Park Authority Update- Mr. Linwood Gorham

Overlook Ridge Park. The access agreement has not yet been completed. It went before the Board a month ago and one board member had a question they couldn't answer. The next meeting will include the County attorney, and that meeting will be on January 22nd after the snow cancelled a previous meeting.

Question from Larry Clark, thanked Linwood for sharing the link to listen to the recent presentation to the Board. In hearing about security and other improvements at the entrance, is the money set aside for the project? **Answer,** I don't know that the money is specifically set aside, but in the grand scheme of things with this project, those are going to be minor, and I'm certain we can get them done.

Legislative Updates

Roza Henson - 19th District, Virginia State Delegate, represented by Max Jenkins, Chief of Staff

A quick overview from Delegate Henson issues.

- **Traffic Study request for the Route 1 at Gunston Plaza Intersection.** VDOT conducted a 3-month signal warrant study, including data collection, and has deduced that a traffic signal is not recommended at this location. Under the current conditions, however, they are recommending restricting left turns departing from Gunston Plaza by placing flex posts and pavement markings or signs as a temporary countermeasure. They're also considering a roadway configuration for a permanent solution in the medium break preventing left outs from this plaza. Also looking at the northbound U-turn Lane being restricted, and they've sent a sketch to their sign crew for consideration. They're also considering the potential full closure of the medium break, and they're also considering a raised concrete channel island in the southbound right end to be added in the scope as a permanent treatment. All of these are still being considered internally by VDOT. Because Gunston Plaza's entrance is so close to the signals at Armistead Road and at Lorton Road, it would not meet the minimum spacing between signals at other intersections nearby. The Commonwealth Transportation Board has expressed concern that the proliferation of signals on the arterial preservation network for any reason can collectively degrade travel time and create or exacerbate problems such as the signal synchronization that we've discussed in earlier meetings.
- **Utility pole placement issue along Gunston Road.** VDOT is still working with their traffic engineering department to provide a formal written response to our office. Started on December 20th and they're still evaluating a few different options. They're letting the other departments consider some of the options that both VDOT and Dominion Energy have offered. That could be utility pole relocation, or alternatives such as Jersey walls between the roadside and the utility poles. Also considering lowering the speed limit amidst other options.

Question from Shirley Ginwright, is the Delegate still planning a 4th of July parade? **Answer,** they were last year but not sure if the Delegate wishes to pursue that this year.

Comment from Dale Rumberger, thanked Mr. Jenkins for an earlier email message, bemoaned the 12-week wait time for a response in the traffic light, and suggested enforcement might be difficult on Gunston Road due to the police staffing issue.

Kathy Tran- 18th District, Virginia State Delegate, represented by Ben Hermerding, Chief of Staff

Mr. Hermerding provided updates as the 2025 General Assembly session is underway:



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- Suggested constituents subscribe to the newsletter for the full list of bills Delegate Tran has proposed as not to drone on in this report.
- **Blue vs. Green Street Signs.** I was reading the Virginia Standard Highway Signs Guide. I don't see any guidance from VDOT on what color signs have to be. I read through a quick blog post as well from some people who care more about street signs than I do, and the banter there was that was that it just depends on the locality.

Laura Jane Cohen - 15th District, Virginia State Delegate, represented by Orson Lange,

Sitting in for Dalton Bisson, Delegate Cohen's Chief of Staff.

- We've introduced a standalone budget amendment to increase both pedestrian and bicycle safety near school zones, and this will act as a fund for localities to access meaning that there'll be no direct prescriptive measures that need to be taken.
- A bill introduced to prohibit "voter roll purging" 90 days before an election, except in the cases where a voter may have been deceased or may have moved from their location and need to update their registration.

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee, Co-Chairs Nick Firth and Keith F. Shovlin

Mr. Firth noted that the December meeting was cancelled as it was scheduled for New Year's Eve.

- **Old Ox Road/Hooes Road Development,** Mr. Firth shared that the staff report had been issued for the housing development, which includes drastic changes. It has decreased the number of homes and increased the green space, which was a major concern.
- **Sportrock climbing center at Liberty,** Mr. Shovlin discussed the proposed business in the old dining hall at Liberty. Representatives have attended the last two Architectural Review Board (ARB) meetings with the proposal as a workshop item. Changes include a climbing boulder in the field behind the building, signage, and HVAC systems alongside the building. The January meeting focused on the boulder include a change prescribed by the Virginia Department of Historical Resources (VDHR). VDHR approved tax credits for the project, as long as they use a tensile fabric cover over the boulder rather than a more permanent roof. The ARB were more supportive of a roof but will yield to VDHR request. Mr. Shovlin expects action will be taken by the ARB at the March or April meeting with the facility opening in 2026.
- **F45 Fitness at Liberty,** construction is complete, and it will be opening soon in the building next to the old dining hall, across from the Ledo Pizza. They are a training center with numerous locations across the area
- **South County Church at Liberty,** the Church that currently meets at South County High School met with the ARB in October in a workshop session. Developing the old reformatory chapel as Liberty Chapel. Have not returned to ARB yet and also awaiting VDHR approval to make improvements. They recently received several chairs from a church in Georgia

Environmental and Parks Committee, Co-Chairs Larry Clark and Dale Rumberger

Mr. Rumberger brought up an issue accessing information from the County's **Environmental Quality Advisory Council**. The annual report was password protected, required to fill out a form with his name



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and address. He asked the Supervisor's office on the security measure. **Christine Morin** asked for information so she can follow up.

- **Air Quality Monitoring**, Mr. Rumberger and Mr. Clark have been following up on what websites are tracking this information for our area. The question was brought up last month and they received an email back that the program lacked funding for online dashboard with monitoring data. Considering the increased industry in the area in addition to car exhaust from traffic, they are considering other funding sources. Mason Neck Citizens Association have set up their own monitoring site through fundraising.
- **Overlook Ridge Park**, Mr. Clark asked that the online dashboard for the project be shut down as it has not been regularly updated, the data is not easily transferable, and the site has become an annoyance.
- **Laurel Hill Park Sports Fields**, Mr. Rumberger commended the Park Authority for following up on funding for the fields. Funding had thought to have been diverted to the Mount Vernon Rec Center but that was not so. The \$2 million approved by bond will go to two soccer fields and a cricket pitch behind the Barrett House near Laurel Hill Central Green. He has reached out to Diego in Supervisor Storck's office for a meeting on an update on the project. **Linwood Gorham interjected** that the price for the project is now \$7 million, so the funds are only the first allotment. The fields are 90% permit complete, virtually shovel ready. Mr. Rumberger stated they would follow up for next month's meeting. He asked Mr. Gorham for the reasoning behind the cost. Mr. Gorham stated that the fields would be artificial turf and include lights, parking, and other things. The two soccer fields alone cost \$2 million.

Question from Jonathan Kiell, on whether a plan is on file and if there will be adequate space between the fields and parking areas as they most likely will see frequent concurrent use. **Answer by Mr. Gorham**, there is a plan and the cricket pitch would be between the two fields to provide space. He will make copies of the plan available to the Federation.

Transportation Committee, Co-Chairs Peter Weyland and Dale Rumberger

Mr. Rumberger thanked Supervisor Storck for discussing Furnace Road, Traffic Light Synchronization, and Pohick Road Sidewalk.

- **Snow Removal**, Mr. Rumberger will reach out to Supervisor Storck's office about condensing information on snow cleanup resources to make them more available.
- **Amtrak AutoTrain Parking**, Mr. Weyland stated that there has been no update since the last meeting. Mr. Rumberger noted that the traffic backups have worsened since winter weather began.
- **I-95 Truck Backup to Route 1**, Mr. Rumberger brought up a recent backup that involved several semi-trucks backed up on I-95 northbound to the Route 1, exit 160. **Christine Morin responded**, the Supervisor's office has been getting updates on what happened. A truck became stuck at the CSX bridge and caused a backup that took six hours to clear and completely cut off traffic on Route 1 northbound. Mr. Rumberger suggested more signage at the exit on height limits due to the CSX bridge and other limitations. **Mr. Kiell suggested** that a three-sided pole be added to the exit as a warning to trucks. They will attempt to reach out to VDOT about the situation. Ms. Morin suggested contacting the Federal Highway Administration as well.
- **Reversible HOV Lanes**. Mr. Weyland had nothing to report since last meeting. Mr. Rumberger reiterated the request for better scheduling of the I-95 HOV lanes to allow traffic both ways at certain



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times. **Ms. Morin asked** if that issue had been brought to the County's attention. Mr. Rumberger said that he would double check.

- **Upcoming meetings.** Mr. Weyland brought up two upcoming transportation meetings and listed the information in the chat as his voice was failing. (Added from Chat)
 - Richmond Highway Open House, Wednesday, January 15th, 7 to 9 pm, Gerry Hyland Government Center, hosted by VDOT and FCDOT, open to the public.
 - Plan Forward, Wednesday, February 5th, 6 to 8 pm, Lorton Library, hosted by FCDOT, open to the public.

Question from Andy Normand, has anyone heard from the developer planning the project behind Pohick Estates? **Answer,** Mr. Firth said no, no request to come to Land Use, and that no application has been filed with the County.

Public Safety Committee, Chair Jonathan Kiell

Mr. Kiell made a couple of quick announcements.

- **Gunston Fire Station.** The construction project has reached the point for an official groundbreaking, but he is not aware of a date for that. Ms. Morin said she would check on it.
- **Gunston Elementary School Traffic backup.** The pickup line not only blocks a lane of traffic on Gunston Road, but it also blocks the Old Colchester Rd intersection. Since it is only two lanes, traffic must pass in the opposite lane and drivers hope no opposing traffic come up. Parents were not pulling up quickly and not being careful not to block the intersection. It lasts for 15 to 20 minutes every school day afternoon. **Ms. Morin noted** that it was an issue last year that they had a process in place with the help of Mr. Weyland and Nancy Wilochka from Mason Neck Citizens Association. She asked if anyone had reached out to the principal. Mr. Kiell said he had not but will follow up. **Mr. Gorham asked** if drivers could pull onto the shoulder. Mr. Kiell said that there isn't a continuous shoulder in the immediate area. **Shirley Ginwright interjected** that she has seen it as well and will follow up with the FC Police Department about having an officer there to move traffic along.

Education Committee, Co-Chairs Wendy Henley & James Fenton

Mr. Fenton shared there is no new information on the **School Boundary Review**. The last meeting was full, and he was unable to attend. The next Zoom meeting is this Friday, January 16th. Meetings are limited to 400 participants.

Meeting adjourned

President Henley thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm. The next scheduled meeting is on February 11th, 2025, at 7 pm on Zoom.

Action Items

- Supervisor Stork's office to provide an update on staffing plans for the Lorton Police Station in 2025.
- Christine Morin to follow up on the start date for construction of the Gunston Fire Station.
- Linwood Gorham to send updated plans and cost estimates for the Laurel Hill fields project.
- Shirley Ginwright to bring up the Gunston Elementary School traffic issue with the Franconia police commander.



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- Christine Morin to follow up on removing the outdated Overlook Ridge dashboard project management site.
- Dale Rumberger to work with Supervisor Storck's office on improving emails.
- Dale Rumberger to seek out funding for air quality monitoring.
- Dale Rumberger to reach out to FCDOT about the I-95 HOV lanes.
- Dale Rumberger to follow up with VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration about the truck backup from Exit 160.
- Keith Shovlin will be representing the Federation at the Mount Vernon Town Hall meeting exhibit hall.