

There are a few important issues to bring to your attention this month.

Transportation – The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) held a public hearing at the OWL Fire Department in Woodbridge last month to discuss the construction of HOV/HOT lanes. Plans indicate that construction should begin in early 2012 and be completed by 2015. According to VDOT the project will be financed under the Virginia Public-Private Transportation Act at a cost of \$1 Billion. The toll lanes will span 29 miles of Interstate 95 from Springfield to Stafford County. As part of the effort the HOV lanes will be extended by 9 miles from Dumfries to the Garrisonville exit in Stafford thus alleviating the present bottleneck south of the Dumfries exit. As was originally proposed it is planned that eventually the HOV lanes will be extended all the way to Spotsylvania County. Toll payments are planned to be monitored electronically allowing drivers to use EZ Pass however vehicles with three or more passengers or motorcycles will continue the use of HOV/HOT lanes free of charge.

The Prince William Board of Supervisors was opposed to the HOT tolls as we felt they would place the ongoing Slug program in jeopardy. VDOT and the Fluor-Transurban representatives heard our concerns loud and clear when the toll lanes were proposed and they realized that the slug system is one that works and takes many cars off the road. It is reported that the toll costs will be determined by the flow of traffic and will vary from \$.20 to \$1.00 per mile.

Stonebridge Development – Roadside Development has shared with the Board the businesses that are presently under contract to open near Wegmans beginning in March, 2012. They include the following: Toby Keith, REI, Golfsmith, Old Navy, PF Chang's, Firebirds, DSW, Charming Charlie's, Coldwater Creek, CHICOS, White House Black Market, Trufinia Italian Bistro, ORVIS and Sport & Health. The video presentation to the Board is available on my web page (www.potomacdistrict.com). I will keep you updated on these exciting additions to our community.

County Status – Prince William County has been ranked 13th in the nation by CNN Money for job growth and 9th in the nation for wealth. The County also received its 3rd AAA Bond Rating. It is clear that Governor McDonnell seems aware of these successes and has now recruited yet another county employee, Martin Briley, our Chief of Economic development for a state-level position. Martin has been with us for 14 years and has achieved outstanding accomplishments in bringing jobs to the county.

You may always reach me with your comments or questions by calling my office at 703-792-4645 or by sending an e-mail to mcaddigan@pwcgov.org.