



General Membership Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7 pm
Lorton, VA 22079

Summary

The October meeting of the South County Federation began with discussions about a recent fire incident and its impact on the community, including updates from Supervisor Storck on emergency responses and road closures. Transportation and safety improvements were a major focus, with various proposals for bike lane widenings, intersection modifications, and Capital Bike Share station expansions, though funding and implementation challenges were noted. The meeting covered updates from multiple departments including police operations, budget cuts from the Park Authority, and legislative matters, before concluding with discussions about middle school start time changes in Fairfax County Public Schools and an invitation for community participation.

Call to Order- Ms. Wendy Henley, President

Ms. Henley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and thanked all those in attendance, noting the last minute switch to Zoom due to a fire at the Davis Industries yard on Route 1, which has caused a shelter in place order by the County for a one-mile radius from the site.

Approval of the Minutes (Secretary position vacant)

Ms. Henley tabled approval as the September minutes aren't available.

Treasurer Report- Mr. James Fenton

Mr. Fenton was absent but sent his report to President Henley beforehand who then presented it.

Truist Checking	\$837.29
CD (Matured)	\$5254.81
Total	\$6,092.10

- The CD has matured and we have a new permanent member, Cavanaugh Crossing.

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

Supervisor Storck provided updates on various community events and projects, including the upcoming Tour to Mount Vernon, the groundbreaking for the new Gunston Fire Station, and the Shred event. He discussed ongoing transportation projects, such as repaving schedules and proposed safety improvements at several intersections. Mr. Storck also mentioned the dedication of a new fireboat and shared information about Amtrak ridership data. He encouraged residents to provide feedback on transportation projects and reminded them about available hard copies of meeting materials at local community centers and libraries. He explained that VDOT is planning to widen bike lanes on Lorton Road, Silverbrook, and Hooes Roads to provide more space for cyclists, though specific details about safety measures were not immediately available. **Ms. Henley raised** concerns about the Silverbrook Road and Plaskett Lane intersection, suggesting the installation of rapid beacons as a temporary measure until a traffic light can be considered. Mr. Storck emphasized that VDOT typically requires updated surveys before implementing such changes, and funding remains a significant challenge. **Dale Rumberger proposed** adding Plaskett Lane to the transportation priority list and suggested funding a camera installation near South County High School to help address speeding issues. **Keith F. Shovlin** inquired about expanding Capital Bike Share stations in the area, and Mr. Storck acknowledged the slow progress but expressed optimism about the improved process for bike lane installations. Mr. Storck expressed

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gratitude for the support of his staff and emphasized the importance of aligning recommendations with community preferences.

Fairfax County Park Authority - Mount Vernon District Representative Linwood Gorham

Linwood Gorham presented budget cuts approved by the Park Authority, including reductions in open space, athletic field mowing, and staff support, but noted a positive trend with increased funding for certain projects, including future funding for Overlook Ridge Park.

Special Presentation - Fairfax County Police Department: Major Patrick O'Hara, Lorton; Major Marques Lowery, Franconia; Lt. Arvi Brito, watch commander, and PFC Liam May, community outreach, West Springfield.

The police department representatives provided updates on their districts' operations and upcoming events, such as a family day at the Lorton Station on November 1st. Major Lowery discussed traffic and crime issues in the Lorton area, highlighting concerns about truck traffic on Route 1 and the height clearance sign at the overpass, which Andy Normand suggested might be too high, potentially causing truck stalls. Major Lowery noted a decline in vehicle thefts and auto recoveries in the area following recent arrests. He also mentioned that the new Franconia police station is expected to open by December, and the facility will include Supervisor Lusk's office, a library, and a daycare. Lt Brito and Officer May from the West Springfield Station attended the conversation to discuss community concerns and updates. They addressed issues such as auto thefts, staffing challenges, and response times, explaining that peak call volumes during rush hour often prioritize motor vehicle accidents. Marty Schumacher raised concerns about recurring drug dealing near Giles Run Bridge, and Lieutenant Brito committed to following up with the community outreach officer to investigate further. Major Lowery mentioned that parking enforcement at Gunston Plaza falls under Franconia's jurisdiction, but he offered to pass along Mr. Schumacher's concerns to their parking enforcement officers. Nick Firth inquired about the Road Shark program, and Lt Brito confirmed it is ongoing, with adjustments based on community input. Officer May encouraged community members to email the West Springfield inbox with concerns for potential action.

Legislative Updates

Scott Surovell - 34th District, Virginia State Senate

Represented by Fatimah Dandashi, Constituent Relations Manager

Ms. Dandashi discussed Senator Surovell's busy schedule and involvement in various commission meetings.

Kathy Tran - 18th District, Virginia State Delegate

Represented by Benjamin Hermerding, Chief of Staff

Mr. Hermerding, provided updates on the Plaskett and Silverbrook intersection project, awaiting VDOT's response on a traffic light study.

Committee Reports

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

The September Land Use meeting discussed an application for a bank with a drive-through at the Shoppes at Lorton Valley rejecting it due to lack of ingress-egress improvements. The Ox Road

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community project was placed on indefinite deferral due to insufficient permitted homes. A meeting between the Pohick Estates applicant and Supervisor Storck's office is pending, with the committee waiting to provide input afterward. The Sportrock Lorton project at the former Liberty dining hall appears stalled, with requested corrections pending. The Shoppes at Lorton Valley changed ownership to a new company, and Gunston Plaza updates included delays for Nash and Smash, as well as ongoing closures for Kong's Taekwondo and La Brassa chicken restaurant. At Lower Potomac Fields, the County filed a site plan revision for park improvements, and the committee clarified that the Hooes Road and 123 development's indefinite deferral means the applicant can restart the process at any time. Christine Morin shared updates about a new fast-casual Greek restaurant opening in the Springfield District as a new location from an existing family chain, which she and others frequent. Andy Normand inquired about the high-rise development near Pohick Estates, and Mr. Firth clarified that while the developer requested a meeting with Supervisor Storck, the project is not supported by the community.

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

Mr. Rumberger reported that Overlook Ridge Park has been budgeted for funding next year, but the department faces proposed cuts in maintenance and mowing, which are part of a 5% reduction request. He also mentioned that a report on the project's progress with DEQ is expected in December.

Transportation Committee, Co-Chairs Peter Weyland and Dale Rumberger

Mr. Rumberger discussed upcoming changes to VRE train schedules in January, including morning train terminations in Alexandria due to the need for safety wall work. He also mentioned lane closures on Lorton Road near the train tracks for track expansion, which will last 19-22 months. The group discussed traffic concerns, including the need for updated signage on Plaskett Lane and potential improvements to the Monacan Road and Silverbrook intersection for better lighting and safety. Mr. Rumberger noted that the previously planned BRT project and CSX bridge replacement are not currently funded.

Public Safety Committee, Chair Jonathan Kiell

Mr. Kiell's report was covered during the special presentation.

Education Committee, Chair Wendy Henley

Ms. Henley gave an update from Mateo Dunne, Mount Vernon representative on the School Board, regarding proposed changes to school start times in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). She explained that FCPS is considering adjusting middle school start times to improve student sleep, but this would require corresponding changes to elementary and high school times. Nelda Brown, Mr. Dunne's staff aide, mentioned preliminary survey results indicate community dissatisfaction with the proposed options, and Ms. Henley emphasized that any changes before new school boundaries are finalized in January 2026 would be inefficient. The group discussed concerns about late start times affecting elementary students, teachers, and childcare logistics.

Meeting adjourned

President Henley thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm. The next scheduled meeting is on November 11th, 2025 at 7 pm on Zoom.

Action Items

- Major Marques Lowery to have the Selective Enforcement Team address traffic issues at Gunston Elementary School during peak drop-off and pick-up times.
- Major Marques Lowery to have the Parking Enforcement Officers address parking violations in fire lanes at Gunston Plaza.

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- Lieutenant Avi Brito to follow up on the reported drug dealing activity near Giles Run Bridge in Shirley Acres and coordinate with Officer May to investigate.
- Lieutenant Avi Brito to have the Selective Enforcement Team address speeding issues on Route 123, particularly near the Shoppes at Lorton Valley.
- Supervisor Storck's office to follow up on the request for a camera on the other side of South County High School to help slow traffic on Silverbrook Road.
- Supervisor Storck's office to provide updates on the traffic signal study for Silverbrook Road and Plaskett Lane.
- Dale Rumberger and Peter Weyland to update the Transportation Priorities List to include Monacan Road lighting and crosswalk improvements.
- Benjamin Hermerding and Fatimah Dandashi to coordinate with Supervisor Storck's office on supporting the Silverbrook and Plaskett Lane traffic signal study.
- Supervisor Storck's office to follow up with VDOT regarding additional low clearance warning signs for the railroad underpass on Furnace Road.