



Public Safety Resolution 2026-01

## Resolution Regarding Roadside Safety and Curb Placement along Gunston Road

Whereas, the South County Federation represents multiple civic and homeowners associations within the Mount Vernon District and advocates for safe and effective transportation infrastructure,

Whereas, the Mason Neck Civic Association is one of those member groups, and so we work in concert with them on this issue,

Whereas, Gunston Road serves as a key arterial corridor with operating speeds of approximately 50 mph and accommodates commuter, freight, and emergency vehicle traffic,

Whereas, recent curb installation associated with public infrastructure improvements has introduced a fixed vertical element immediately adjacent to the travel lane, with limited or no recoverable shoulder area,

Whereas, established roadway design principles, including those reflected in the VDOT Road Design Manual and AASHTO Roadside Design Guide, emphasize the provision of adequate clear zone and recovery space on higher-speed roadways,



Whereas, the placement of curbing in close proximity to a high-speed travel lane—particularly within a transition zone near a fire station entrance—raises concerns regarding roadside safety, vehicle recovery, and crash severity,

Whereas, there are currently no such curbs most of the way along nearly 6 miles of Gunston Road (except at Gunston Elementary School where the curb is set back approximately 20 feet from the main roadway and where there are two separate additional lanes between the main road and the curb for parking and turns),

Whereas, the curbs being installed in this location serve no useful purpose and in fact may make it more difficult for fire trucks departing the new stationhouse to turn onto Gunston Road,

Whereas, the Federation has received community input expressing concern about the safety implications of this installation;

Therefore, be it resolved that the South County Federation formally requests that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Fairfax County:

1. Provide a detailed technical justification for the curb placement, including clear zone analysis, lateral offset measurements, and applicable design criteria;
2. Disclose whether the design reflects a constrained condition and whether a formal design exception or waiver was approved;
3. Conduct a formal roadside safety evaluation, including consideration of operating speeds, traffic volumes, and adjacent land uses;
4. Evaluate and implement, as appropriate, design modifications or mitigation measures to improve safety, including increased offset, shoulder restoration, or barrier protection;
5. Engage with community stakeholders through a field review or public discussion of the design and safety considerations;

Be it further resolved, that the South County Federation encourages adherence to best practices in roadside design for all future projects within the district, particularly along higher-speed corridors;

Be it finally resolved, that this resolution be shared with Virginia Department of Transportation, Fairfax County leadership, the Mount Vernon District Supervisor, and relevant transportation agencies for consideration and response.

  
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President

4/14/2024  
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Date