

The Board of Supervisors' Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County

FALL 2016 UPDATE



Cover Photo: Reston Station by David Madison Photography

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SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Inova and UVA announce plans to bring medical school to Fairfax County

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Economic Success Strategic Plan OVERVIEW

In 2015, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted The Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County. The Plan envisions an economically strong and sustainable Fairfax County and focuses on four fundamental themes:

People, Places, Employment, and Governance.

Each of the four themes contains a vision of what we aspire to and the related fundamental strategies. Since its adoption, County staff has been working on the implementation of the actions prescribed within the Plan's six goals:

1. **Further Diversify Our Economy**
2. **Create Places Where People Want To Be**
3. **Improve the Speed, Consistency, and Predictability of the Development Review Process**
4. **Invest in Natural and Physical Infrastructure**
5. **Achieve Economic Success Through Education and Social Equity**
6. **Increase Agility of County Government**



OVERARCHING VISION

Fairfax County has achieved an exceptionally strong local economy and high quality of life through its focus on, among other things, the economic development efforts of the community. Our sustained efforts have resulted in the County being the largest and strongest economy in the Washington Metropolitan area and one of the strongest in the nation. This is evidenced by a high quality of life, a strong local employment base, competitive tax rates, nationally recognized schools and governance, and a preeminent economic development program.

However, no community has a preordained right to prosperity. Prosperity can only be achieved and sustained when a community's citizens, businesses, and government work in concert for everyone's benefit.



Success requires examining our goals, strategies, and approaches. The County must work deliberately to maintain, diversify, and enhance our strong and vital community in order to sustain and grow our economic prosperity. In the challenging and changing economic climate and changing demographics of this century, Fairfax County cannot rest on its previous achievements. Our vision is a community where businesses, residents, and employees of a variety of ages, abilities, and experiences want to live, work, play, learn, and thrive.

Economic Success Strategic Plan

Indicators of Success

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Throughout 2016, the County has been working with the Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) to identify a set of indicators intended to reveal progress on the county's Economic Success Strategic Plan (ESSP).

The intent of the collaboration was seemingly simple: develop a set of meaningful indicators. The process however was extensive. The team distributed a survey to approximately 200 stakeholders, and met with over 60 internal and external stakeholders in group and one-on-one sessions to identify and refine indicators based on common interests, themes, and to prioritize what is most important for both internal and external stakeholders. The measures should serve as effective internal management tools and should influence the plans and projects of internal and external stakeholders. They reflect the holistic, interdisciplinary nature of the plan itself.

After initial collection, reasonable targets will be developed by County staff based on the current state and an assessment of realistic progress over time. Most indicators will be assessed on a yearly basis.

DEVELOPMENT OF THREE THEMES

As mentioned, the Economic Success Strategic Plan lays out six broad goals:

1. Further Diversify Our Economy
2. Create Places Where People Want To Be
3. Improve the Speed, Consistency, and Predictability of the Development Review Process
4. Invest in Natural and Physical Infrastructure
5. Achieve Economic Success Through Education and Social Equity
6. Increase the Agility of County Government

When considering the measures for the goals, the project team noted confluence in several areas. Rather than develop indicators tied directly to these goals, the team organized the indicators around a set of themes based on the natural affinity between Goals 1 and 5, Goals 2 and 4, and Goals 3 and 6.

- ◆ **Theme One: Innovation and Equity**
- ◆ **Theme Two: Places and Infrastructure**
- ◆ **Theme Three: Governance and Financial Stewardship**

The stories of success in this report are also organized using the same three themes.

Table 1: Draft Indicators of Success

Theme	Sub-themes	Indicators
Innovation and Equity	Economic innovation and sustainability	New business starts by sector
		Employment by sector
		Total job growth
		Percent of population with advanced degrees
		Wage growth by sector
		VC Expenditures Angel Investment Research and Development Dollars Patents
	Education, Housing, Health	Ratio of median income to average income
		Housing and transportation burden (demographic breakdown, including age)
		Employment by race and educational level
		Percent of kindergarten students reaching literacy benchmarks
		Percent of students earning a career credential, demographic breakdown
		School quality measure
		Child opportunity index
		Health opportunity index
Places and Infrastructure	Mobility	Walkability score in Activity Centers
		Mode share
		Jobs within a 45 minute commute
		Total commute time
	Activity Centers and creating value	Density in Activity Centers
		Assessed value/acre in Activity Centers and CRDs
		Hotel revenue generated in Activity Centers
		Retail sector access (1/4 mi)
	Environment and infrastructure	Parks access (1/4 mi)
		Air quality
Ratio of total dollar investment in maintenance per total dollar value of county assets		
Governance and Financial Stewardship	Communication and culture	Social media engagement
		Community meeting participation
		Volunteerism
	Regulatory Processes	Development review time – Entitlement through permitting
		Development process customer survey
	Sound financial decisions	Total assessed value – commercial and residential
		Ratio and growth of commercial vs. residential real estate tax base
Debt ratios		

Innovation and Equity

INOVA AND UVA ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL AND RESEARCH CENTER



Inova Health System and the University of Virginia announced their partnership to make Fairfax County home to a major genomics and research institute and medical school. Chairman Sharon Bulova and Supervisor Pat Herrity were among the local, state, and federal officials (seen above) that attended the announcement on November 2, 2016.

Chairman Bulova delivered remarks at the announcement of the \$112 million deal between UVA and Inova. She emphasized the importance of the partnership and how it will create jobs, improve the health of residents, attract new businesses and research dollars, and further diversify our economy. “Fairfax County and the Commonwealth are poised to become a national center for personalized medicine.”

“This new relationship is yet another step toward Fairfax County becoming a center for medical innovation and our goal of diversifying the economic base of the county,” said Fairfax County Economic Development Authority president and CEO Dr. Gerald Gordon.

The development of a medical school and the world class research and development that it produces is an important element of ESSP Goal 1.1. The new campus will be off Gallows Road at the Inova Center for Personalized Health, across from the Inova Fairfax Hospital campus.

For more information:

- ◇ [Gordon says Inova-U.Va. Agreement solidifies Fairfax County’s standing as “world-class”](#)
- ◇ Inova/UVA Press Release: [Inova Health System and the University of Virginia Plan Comprehensive Research and Education Partnership](#)
- ◇ [Creating an Innovation Ecosystem in Fairfax County | Video](#)

Innovation and Equity

FCPS' IGNITE STRATEGIC PLAN AND PROJECTMOMENTUM ADVANCE INNOVATION AND EQUITY



Fairfax County Public Schools released their five year strategic plan, *Ignite*, in 2015. The plan has four goals: student success, caring culture, premier workforce, and resource stewardship. A link to the plan is in the box below.

FCPS also has initiated ProjectMOMENTUM. Its primary goal is to intensively support schools at greatest risk of “State Accreditation with Warning” status, those identified as Title I Focus schools, and to increase the academic achievement of all students towards State standards.

Schools are identified through formulae that aligns with the Virginia Department of Education guidelines and ratings, including growth metrics. Each school in the program undergoes an academic review process that includes review of lesson plans, professional development plans, and school leadership practices. Action plans are then implemented based on findings, and continuous school improvement plans are developed. As a result, since the 2014-2015 academic year, the number of FCPS Schools not Fully Accredited have dropped from 18 to 9.

For more information:

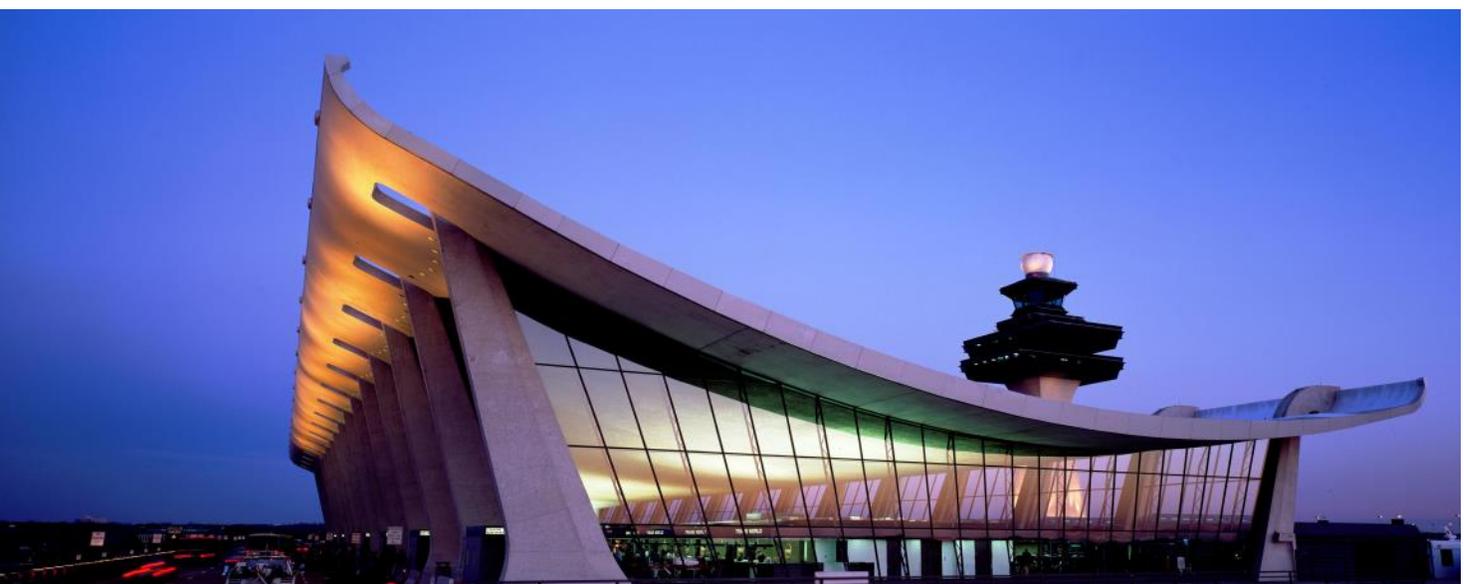
- ◇ Fairfax County Public Schools' [Ignite Strategic Plan](#) | [Video](#)
- ◇ [Portrait of a Graduate](#) | Closing the Achievement Gap
- ◇ From October School Board Work Session: ProjectMOMENTUM [Presentation](#) | [Appendix](#)

UNITED AIRLINES SIGNS LONG-TERM LEASE AT DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) and United Airlines have agreed to sign an extension of the Airport Use Agreement and Premises lease for Washington Dulles International Airport through 2024. This long-term lease extension continues United's long-standing presence as a domestic and international hub, first established in 1986.

The Commonwealth incentivized \$50 million to reduce airline operating costs. Reducing the cost per-passenger was identified as a goal during the ESSP planning in 2014. The agreement also establishes new capital investments for 2018-2024 for upkeep and improvement of airport infrastructure.

FCDOT staff have been attending Washington Airport Task Force (WATF) and Committee for Dulles meetings to stay informed and engaged in plans and needs for Dulles.



For more information, see the [September press release from the Office of the Governor](#).

Innovation and Equity

ONE FAIRFAX RESOLUTION ADOPTED

The Board of Supervisors and the School Board adopted the One Fairfax Resolution in Summer 2016 that directs the development of a racial and social equity policy to ensure all individuals in Fairfax have an opportunity to reach their highest level of personal achievement. Over the next several months, the Deputy County Executives will work with County agencies, Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT), and community leaders on the creation of an equity policy. Staff will have the opportunity to participate in training, policy and practice reviews, and data analysis. This work is important as the County continues to take steps to ensure we are one of the best Counties in the country to live, learn, work, and play.



FCPS STUDENTS ENTER THE SHARK TANK, \$5000 WORTH OF PRIZES AWARDED

On March 28, 2016, six finalists from Fairfax County Public Schools presented their innovative solutions to improve the lives of older adults through the “Shark Tank” Assistive Technology Challenge. During the design process, student inventors received coaching and expert advice from INTEGRITYOne Partners and Refraction. The INTEGRITYOne Partners presented cash prizes to the winners at the Live Well Aging Well Summit on April 16.



Proposals for the 2016/2017 Shark Tank Tech Challenge are due December 1, 2016. Project submissions are due in February. The Shark Tank finalist competition will be March 24, 2017.

Information on the winning projects and 2017 applications can be found [here](#).

WORKFORCE INVENTORY

The Office for Public Private Partnerships (OP³) completed the “Inventory of Workforce Development Programs that Align with High Demand Fields” in May 2015, identifying that there are pipeline gaps in the region, such as an unclear correlation between STEM training available in the County and STEM careers, and often a lack of capacity in some programs to meet the robust demand. Recommendations include promoting awareness of high demand occupations, clarifying career pathways to connect training with job awareness, sharing resources with industry, and encouraging and facilitating connections across the workforce and talent development pipeline.



SCHOOL READINESS: AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Fairfax County's School Readiness Strategic Planning Team is developing a strategic plan that supports equitable access to high-quality early childhood learning and development programs. The first step in the comprehensive School Readiness Strategic Plan initiative process is underway. The strategic plan will include a needs assessment which will inform the work of the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team.

For more information on the SCYPT's initiatives and activities, visit their [website](#).

STEM SNAPSHOT

In August of 2016, and in partnership with internal and external community stakeholders, including FCPS, the Office for Public and Private Partnerships completed the report, Snapshot of STEM Opportunities for Youth in Fairfax County, to identify the type and scope of STEM programs available to Fairfax County youth.

Recommendations included:

- Identify pathways and opportunities for students, parents, counselors, teachers, and community to encourage pursuit of STEM education and certifications;
- Focus on students' FCPS Student Learning Plan, the gateway to student planning;
- Encourage greater use by students and their families of online planning tools to inform course selection and career development, i.e., Family Connection and Naviance;
- Create greater awareness among school counselors about career and technical education (CTE) courses and career opportunities;
- Seek greater flexibility in teacher licensure, allowing multiple licenses to teach relevant course in STEM; and
- Encourage legislative efforts with state elected officials and Department of Education to allow CTE courses to fulfill state high school graduation requirements where appropriate.

Innovation and Equity

EXPANDING THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION AROUND ESSP TOPICS

County staff is engaging with nationally-recognized thought leaders in the business, university, and nonprofit worlds around the key themes of the ESSP. At the June EAC meeting, John Backus, co-founder of New Atlantic Ventures, spoke about the future of advanced industrial clusters in the Washington Region and Chris Leinberger (below), land use strategist and



developer, introduced new ways of measuring the success of walkable urbanism and equitable growth. In October 2016, staff partnered with the Washington West Film Festival for the panel discussion following the world premiere of the documentary “The University” regarding the impact of new technologies on the economy.

For more information

- ◇ [When it Comes to Economic Growth, Walkable Urbanism Outpaces Suburban Development](#)
- ◇ Video: [Walkable Mixed Use Communities Produce Economic Benefits](#)
- ◇ Video: [Creating Innovation Ecosystems in Fairfax County](#)

FAIRFAX COUNTY, REGION PARTNERS FOR GLOBAL CITIES INITIATIVE

The Global Cities Initiative, a model developed by the Brookings Institution in order to create region-wide marketing plan for exports, is underway in the Washington Area. Fairfax County is active in this collaborative effort with the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Council of Governments, and the regional Consortium of Universities. The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority President and Economic Advisory Council member, Gerald Gordon, is a member of the initiative’s steering committee for our region.

For more information, visit the [Council of Governments’ website](#).

NEARLY 150 FOOD TRUCK OPERATORS AND ENTREPRENEURS PERMITTED IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Food trucks have a cult following—Tweeting to fans their locations of the day and advertising by word of mouth. Mobile vending is an emerging way for office park employees, those in mixed use areas, parks, farmers market, and attendees at special events to enjoy a bite to eat in many of the County’s activity centers.

Innovation and Equity

INNOVATION COALITION PLANNING SERIES OF SALONS

The National Capital Region is poised to flourish as megatrends change the way we live and work. The Innovation Coalition is a group of thought leaders who work collaboratively to support innovation in the region and its positive, long-term impact on our economy and communities. County staff co-founded the group with private and public sector partners.



The first salon in the *Innovation Discourse* series, “Autonomous Systems, AI, and Self-Driving Cars”, will be December 7, 2016. Topics for discussion include crucial issues affecting our future, such as self-driving cars, synthetic biology, 3D printing, and artificial intelligence. Discussion will include their impact with technologists, futurists, legislators, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and scholars.

[Visit this site](#) for more information on the first Innovation Discourse salon.

Video: [Innovation Districts: A Key to Economic Success](#)

Video: [Creating Innovation Ecosystems in Fairfax County](#)



BREWING UP ECONOMIC SUCCESS

In May 2016, officials welcomed a new brewery to Chantilly. Dulles Regional Chamber CEO (from left) Eileen Curtis, FCEDA President Jerry Gordon, Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith, Visit Fairfax President Barry Biggar, and Chairman Sharon Bulova, were among those on hand to celebrate the grand opening with MSB founder Sean Hunt (center).

In October, the Board approved the Caboose Brewing Company to open a restaurant and brewery in the Mosaic District; adaptively reusing a former warehouse.

More in the Fairfax County NewsCenter:

◇ [Mustang Sally Opening Shows that Fairfax’s Economy is Brewing Success](#)

◇ [Caboose Approved to Convert an Old Warehouse into a Brewery in the Mosaic District](#)

FOCUSING ON SOCIAL EQUITY TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SUCCESS

Fairfax County and Virginia Tech partnered in April for a conference, “Linking the Silos of Racial Equity Work” aimed to bridge the gaps in the communication and practices for individuals conducting social equity work. Dr. Susan Gooden, professor of public policy and administration at Virginia Commonwealth University and the author of [Race and Social Equity: A Nervous Area of Government](#), was the keynote.

Earlier in the year, the County’s senior management team heard from Berkeley Professor John A. Powell, a social equity expert; Powell also held several presentations in the community around the topic.

For more information

◇ [Fairfax Focuses on Social Equity to Achieve Economic Success | Video](#)

Innovation and Equity

ACCESS TO CAPITAL MULTICULTURAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE DRAWS MORE THAN 300



On April 28, 2016, the Access to Capital Event, hosted by the Business Development Assistance Group, drew more than 300 attendees, 73% of which were small business owners. The exhibitors and presenters included ten financial institutions, four investors, the US Small Business Administration, and the Economic Development Authorities of Fairfax and Arlington Counties. The ESSP Goal One team helped plan the event after access to capital was identified as a gap at the first innovation dialogue that was convened in 2015. Deputy County Executive Rob Stalzer presented opening remarks, along with Senator Mark Warner.

Additional photos, resources, and upcoming events can be found on the [BDAG website](#).

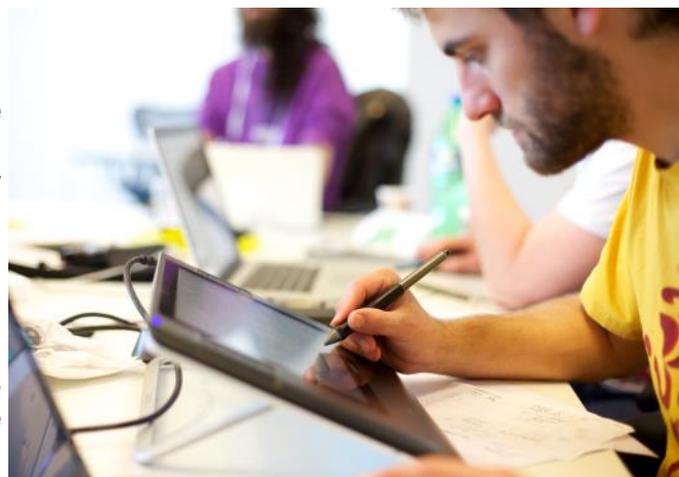
WEWORK EXPANDS INTO TYSONS

In September 2016, Lerner Enterprises announced WeWork signed a lease for 92,517 square feet at 1775 Tysons Boulevard in Tysons. WeWork is known for their shared workspace concept, allowing entrepreneurs, small businesses, startups, and freelancers a place to set up and grow their business. WeWork will occupy three floors of the 17-story building near the Tysons Corner Metro Station.

STARTUP CENSUS

County staff partnered with local businesses, universities, and regional jurisdictions to sponsor the inaugural Startup Census, an accounting of existing startups, initiated by Fosterly. Fosterly is a community of entrepreneurs, creators, creatives, and collaborators, tackling new challenges in business and technology.

It is important for regional legislators, entrepreneurs, and the general public to be familiar with the status and needs of companies all working to improve the region's competitiveness as a hub of entrepreneurship.



For more information, visit [Fosterly's website](#).

Innovation and Equity



WORKHOUSE BREWFEST HELD IN AUGUST

The Workhouse Brewfest was created to showcase the economic impact of local entrepreneurs and artisans; promote arts, hospitality, and tourism; and create interest in a place where people want to be. The event had 2,500 attendees and featured seven Fairfax County craft breweries, 21 other regional breweries, three cideries, four wineries, six distilleries, and 17 food trucks. The ESSP team worked with OP³, Celebrate Fairfax, the Park Authority, Visit Fairfax, and the Workhouse Arts Center to facilitate the event.



Visit the [Workhouse Arts Center website](#) for more details on next year's event.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVANCING HOUSING BLUEPRINT

The Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) announced the availability of up to \$10.7 million in local and Federal funds for the development of affordable housing in Fairfax County. The \$10.7 million includes Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)/HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds and local Housing Blueprint funds.

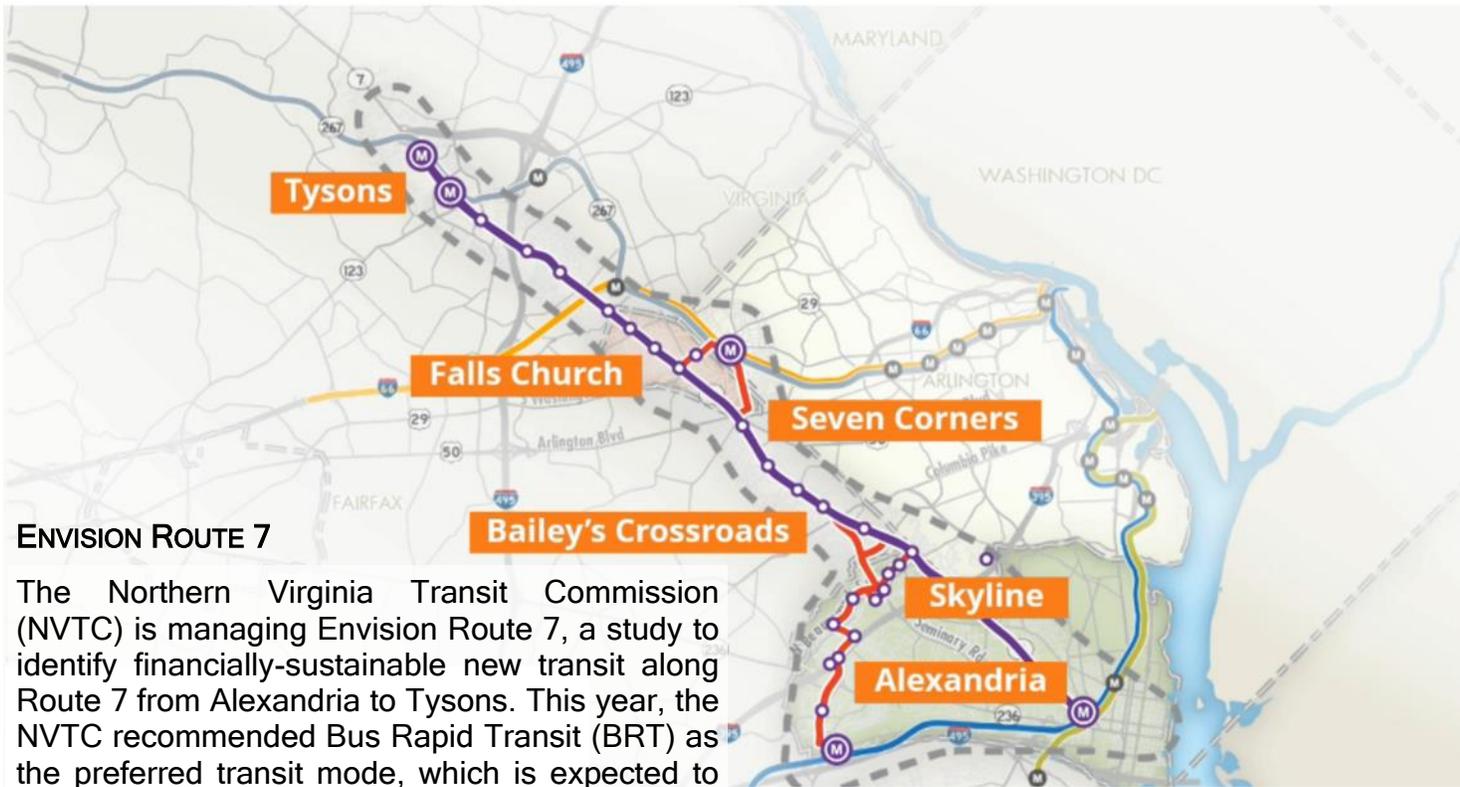
Additionally, on September 22, 2016, the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) authorized the release of up to 100 Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) for Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBA). This rental assistance is intended to support projects that preserve or create new affordable housing, consistent with the goals of Fairfax County's Housing Blueprint.

The Residences at the Government Center, a privately-owned and operated 270-unit affordable workforce rental apartment community on the campus of the Fairfax County Government Center will be opening this winter and is accepting applications now.

For more information:

- ◇ Fairfax County Housing and Redevelopment Authority [News Archive](#)
- ◇ Fairfax County [Housing Blueprint 2017](#)
- ◇ The Residences at the Government Center [project information](#)

Places and Infrastructure



ENVISION ROUTE 7

The Northern Virginia Transit Commission (NVTC) is managing Envision Route 7, a study to identify financially-sustainable new transit along Route 7 from Alexandria to Tysons. This year, the NVTC recommended Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as the preferred transit mode, which is expected to attract 9,500 new daily transit riders to Route 7. BRT is proposed to run 11 miles, mostly in a dedicated lane, from the Spring Hill Metrorail Station in Tysons, through Falls Church, Seven Corners, and Bailey's Crossroads, to the Mark Center in Alexandria, with a connection to the East Falls Church Metrorail Station. This regional solution will expand travel options and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion.

For more information, visit the project [website](#).

ORIGINAL MT. VERNON HIGH SCHOOL REUSE PROJECT

The Original Mount Vernon High School served first as a public and then private school until July 2016, when the building was returned to Fairfax County for use. In October 2016, renovations to the gymnasium were completed to provide programming space for the South County Teen Center. Current Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and former Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland were among those who spoke at the opening.

The historic school, which sits on approximately 20 acres, is adjacent to the 20-acre George Washington Community Park and George Washington RECenter. Options for long-term reuse for the entire site are being explored by a cross-agency team and representatives from the private and nonprofit sectors.



For more information:

- ◇ [Original Mount Vernon High School Gym Reopening is a Slam Dunk](#) | Ch. 16 [Video](#)
- ◇ [Project Website](#)

Places and Infrastructure



CAPITAL BIKESHARE HITS THE STREETS

“Capital Bikeshare is a terrific and innovative transportation program. I am pleased Fairfax County has officially joined the Capital Bikeshare network to support a fun, healthy, and sustainable way of getting around the region. Capital Bikeshare will also give residents and visitors a new opportunity to explore Fairfax County’s bicycle trail network,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, pictured here between Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and Congressman Gerry Connolly.

Related Stories:

- ◇ [More information](#)
- ◇ [How Bikeshare works](#)
- ◇ [A driver for economic growth](#)

BIKE LANE NETWORK EXPANDING

Dedicated bike lanes are being added in Tysons and Reston, and throughout Fairfax County. As part of the Department of Transportation’s Bicycle Master Plan and by mutual agreement, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the County partner to identify, design and implement bike projects as part of VDOT’s repaving program. Bike lanes are being added in Annandale, Burke, Kingstowne, and Springfield as VDOT repaves. FCDOT is also including new bike lanes in new and expanded roadway facilities.

To see the Bicycle Master Plan, visit the [FCDOT website](#).



PHASE TWO OF THE SILVER LINE

As of October 2016, Phase Two of the Silver Line is 32% complete. Phase Two of the Silver Line is scheduled to open in 2020, and new stations will connect Fairfax County to Dulles International Airport and downtown Washington. Fairfax County is constructing new parking facilities at Innovation Center Station and Herndon-Monroe. Reston Town Center will be the site of a third new station. Placemaking will continue to be focused in these transit station areas.

Related Stories:

- ◇ [More information](#) from Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority
- ◇ [Silver Line Turns One as its Economic Impact is Apparent](#)

Places and Infrastructure

SEVEN CORNERS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT APPROVED, CLEARING WAY FOR REVITALIZATION



In July 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved a plan to facilitate the transformation of Seven Corners into a walkable, mixed-use urban town center. The new land use plan calls for three interconnected urban areas, a walkable grid of streets, bike lanes, parks, and a reconfiguration of its infamous intersection into a four-way intersection. The plan also upends the current suburban development pattern to a more urban development pattern. The plan envisions a denser mix of uses on shorter, walkable blocks of streets, garage parking, and buildings closer to streets designed for multiple modes, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders.

For more information:

- ◇ [Seven Corners Gets an Urban Makeover](#)
- ◇ [Office of Community Revitalization](#)
- ◇ [Department of Planning and Zoning](#)

MERRIFIELD: ONE OF AMERICA'S "BEST SUBURBS" AND "BEST PLACES TO LIVE"



Another one of Fairfax County's revitalization areas, Merrifield, was ranked #2 out of 8,729 places in Niche's 2016 rankings of "Best Suburbs to Live in America", and #4 out of 19,140 places in its ranking of "Best Places to Live in America". Niche offers rankings and statistics on neighborhoods and cities in the U.S. to help people find the best places to live, visit, and raise a family. Niche's "Best Places to Live" rankings provide a comprehensive assessment of the overall livability of an area.

The Office of Community Revitalization has [more information on Merrifield's transformation](#).

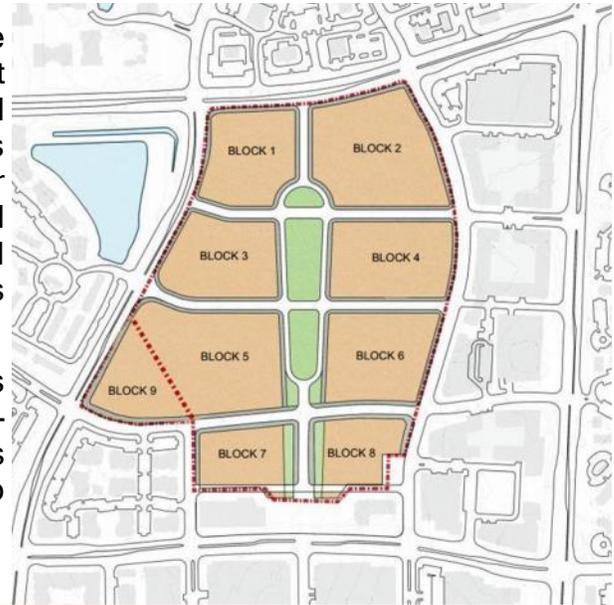
Places and Infrastructure

RESTON TOWN CENTER NORTH PLANNING UNDERWAY

The Board of Supervisors envisions redeveloping the property into a vibrant urban, mixed-use environment that complements Reston Town Center and surrounding development. In addition, the plan calls for the creation of a central green space open for public use, mixed-use development, an expanded library to serve our growing population, upgraded delivery of human services, and housing that is affordable.

In partnership with Inova, the County is leveraging its assets to help create a transit-oriented, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development that embraces Reston's motto of "Live, Work, Play", while also upgrading public facilities and services.

Blocks 7 & 8 will be the first phase of development.



For more information:

- ◇ [Fairfax's Economic Strategy Will Transform Reston Town Center North](#)
- ◇ DPWES [Project Website](#)

PARKS COUNT!

The Fairfax County Park Authority Needs Assessment was released in May 2016, after an 18-month process. This information, along with the Park Authority's Strategic Plan, produced recommendations for capital investments in the park system to inform the Park Authority for years to come. One of the first opportunities to put the Parks Count findings into action is through the 2016 Park Bond.



For more information:

- ◇ Park Authority's [2016 Strategic Plan and Annual Report](#)
- ◇ [Parks Count!](#) Needs Assessment

Places and Infrastructure

EMBARKING ON THE FUTURE OF RICHMOND HIGHWAY

Embark Richmond Highway is a multi-year, multi-agency effort involving land use, transportation planning, design, and construction, which will result in a bus rapid transit system to operate primarily on dedicated lanes along Richmond Highway. The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment envisions walkable, urban-style mixed use development near the future transit stations with the goal of creating vibrant, active communities where people can live, work, shop, and play – all with easy access to transit.



EMBARK
Current Focus Area
TIME LINE

*General BRT Project Sequence

** Comprehensive Planning

** Scoping/ NEPA PE

Final Design

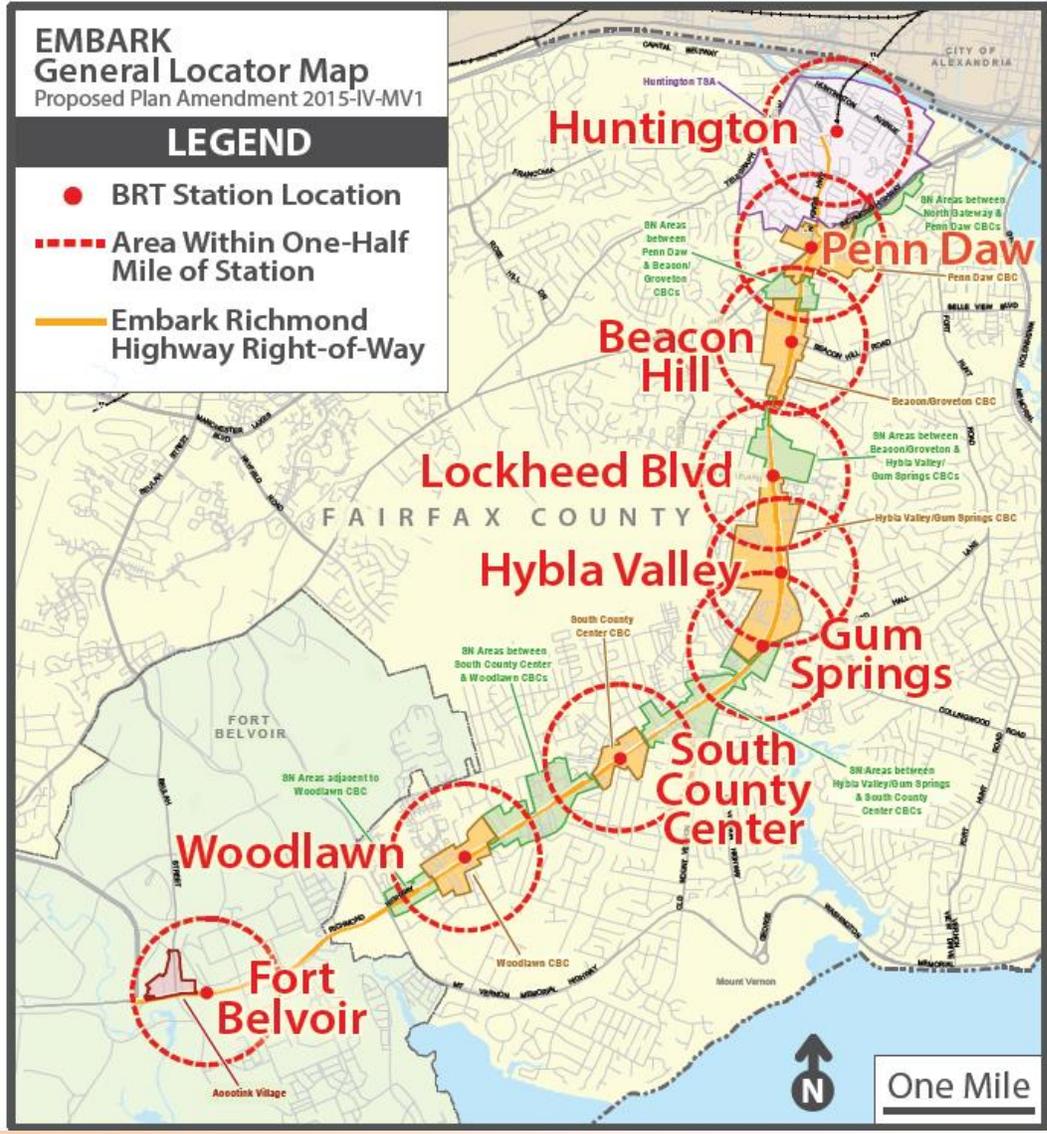
Right of Way

Utilities Relocation

Construction

Operation
BRT operational to Ft. Belvoir 2028

*General BRT Project Sequence steps may overlap or occur simultaneously.
**Current stage of BRT development as of the date of printing.



For more information:

- ◇ [Embarking on the Future of Richmond Highway | Video Playlist](#)
- ◇ [\\$400,000 Federal Grant to Help Fund Bus Rapid Transit on Richmond Highway](#)
- ◇ [DPZ Project Website](#)

Places and Infrastructure

AGING IN PLACE: OLDER ADULT HOUSING ADDS TO MIX OF USES IN RESTON

New facilities offering a continuum of care, from independent living to assisted living, were approved in 2016 in Reston. One project will provide assisted living beds and independent living units in close proximity to the mix of uses and services available at Hunters Woods Village Center. Another older adult assisted living community will be available in a more suburban setting on approximately 23 acres along Leesburg Pike near Baron Cameron Avenue. Ultimately, more than 350 units for older adults will be delivered.

REDEVELOPMENT OF TALL OAKS VILLAGE APPROVED BY BOARD



In August 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved the redevelopment of Tall Oaks Village Center. It's the first village center redevelopment to be approved since the Reston Master Plan was adopted in 2015. The redevelopment will add a large public plaza and open space, as well as new retail and residential uses.

Rendering from Jefferson Apartment Group

For more information:

- ◇ Tall Oaks Village Center in Reston to be Reborn as Mixed Use Redevelopment
- ◇ [Reston Master Plan](#) | Fairfax County [NewsCenter Story](#) | [Video](#)

BUILDING REPOSITIONING WORKGROUP

At the direction of Chairman Sharon Bulova, staff from the Office of Community Revitalization (OCR) established the Fairfax County Building Repositioning Workgroup (Workgroup) in Fall 2015 to examine the conditions in Fairfax that contribute to office building obsolescence and to identify potential repositioning and/or repurposing solutions to address these conditions. The Workgroup sought to understand the impacts of the changing office market within the Washington metropolitan region on existing office structures; how the market drives changes in building use over time; how buildings can be improved physically to improve value; and, what policy, process, and regulatory changes the County should consider to address the challenges and opportunities raised.

The Workgroup provided a number of policy, process, and communication initiatives for the Board's consideration in October 2016. Subsequently, the Board directed staff to implement the recommendations which were developed by the Workgroup. A key focus of activities in 2017 will be a Plan Amendment and Zoning Ordinance Amendments to facilitate building repositioning and repurposing efforts.

Visit the [Office of Community Revitalization's website](#) to learn more.

Places and Infrastructure

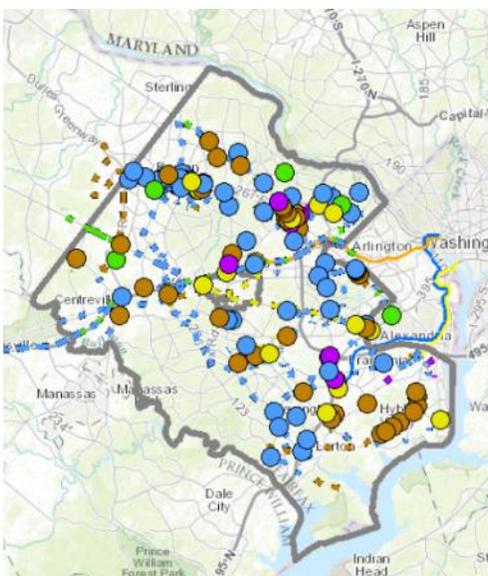
ROUTE 7 WIDENING APPROVED

In June 2016, the Commonwealth Transportation Board allocated \$120 million to widen Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive from four to six lanes. Combined with \$114 million in Federal and regional funding allocated by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, this project is now fully funded and design work is proceeding. In addition to the road widening, the project includes a 10-foot wide shared use path on both sides of the road and intersection improvements. These improvements will decrease congestion, increase capacity, improve safety, and expand mobility for cyclists and pedestrians - all in conformity with Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan. Also, the Virginia Department of Transportation is currently widening the Route 7 bridge over the Dulles Toll Road in Tysons. These two projects will significantly increase mobility in the corridor and improve access to Tysons.



Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust said “The re-development of Tysons is essential to the long term economic success of the entire county. Through our planning process, the Board of Supervisors has committed to delivering the infrastructure that will be needed to ensure that Tysons does succeed. Route 7 is one of the most critical pieces of that infrastructure. I am very pleased that the long-planned Route 7 widening project has been funded and soon will be under construction.”

Additional information, updates, and public meetings can be found on the [VDOT Project Website](#).



TRANSPORTATION STATUS REPORT RELEASED

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) prepared its biannual report to the Board of Supervisors on transportation projects and activities within the county. The report includes updates on all active projects, including those projects in the Third Four-Year Transportation Program for FY2013 through FY2016 and the Board approved Transportation Project Priorities (TPP) for FY2015 through FY2020.

For more information:

- ◇ August 2016 [Fairfax County Transportation Status Report](#)
- ◇ Interactive [Map of FCDOT Capital Projects](#)

Places and Infrastructure

TRANSFORMING I-66



In November 2016, Governor McAuliffe announced the Commonwealth selected Express Mobility Partners to build high occupancy tolling express lanes on I-66 outside of the Capital Beltway, following a 16-month procurement process. “This project will transform travel in the I-66 corridor and pave the way for additional multimodal options that will reduce congestion and commute times,” Governor McAuliffe said in a statement.

When the project is completed in 2022, two express lanes will run alongside three regular traffic lanes in each direction with space in the median for future transit. Corridor-wide bike and pedestrian improvements, new transit routes, and more than 4,000 park-and-ride spots will enhance transportation in the 22.5 mile corridor between I-495 and University Boulevard in Prince William County.

Improvements to I-66 inside the Capital Beltway are also underway, including adding a third travel lane from the Dulles Connector Road to Fairfax Drive in Arlington County. Dynamic rush hour tolling is also planned for the roadway.

Express Lanes facilities are being expanded on I-395 and I-95, as well.

For more information:

[Office of the Governor Press Release](#) for more on the Express Mobility Partners announcement
[Transform 66](#) project information

[I-95 Express Lanes Southern Extension](#) project information

[I-395 Express Lanes Extension](#) project information

435,000 SQUARE FOOT SPORTS/FITNESS COMPLEX APPROVED IN SPRINGFIELD



The Board of Zoning Appeals approved a new sports, fitness and wellness complex in Springfield in March called the St. James Sport and Wellness Center. It is expected to be the second largest on the East Coast, next to Chelsea Piers in Connecticut, accommodating 1,240 athletes, plus 900 spectators. Some of the planned features of the center include turf fields, ice rinks, aquatics, laser tag, rock walls, a wellness center, health club, and baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, golf, gymnastics, dance, racquetball facilities inside the planned new building near Backlick Road.

More in the NewsCenter

◇ [Mega Sports, Fitness and Wellness Complex Approved for Springfield](#)

ULI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PANEL MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANNANDALE

In July 2016, OCR convened a group of industry experts to conduct a Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) (a brief intensive study) of the core area of the Annandale Commercial Revitalization District. The group offered short- to medium-term revitalization strategies to enhance the appearance, economic vitality, awareness, and promotion of Annandale.

At the Taste of Annandale in October (at right), a pop-up park was organized to create a “temporary oasis” away from the bustling festival.



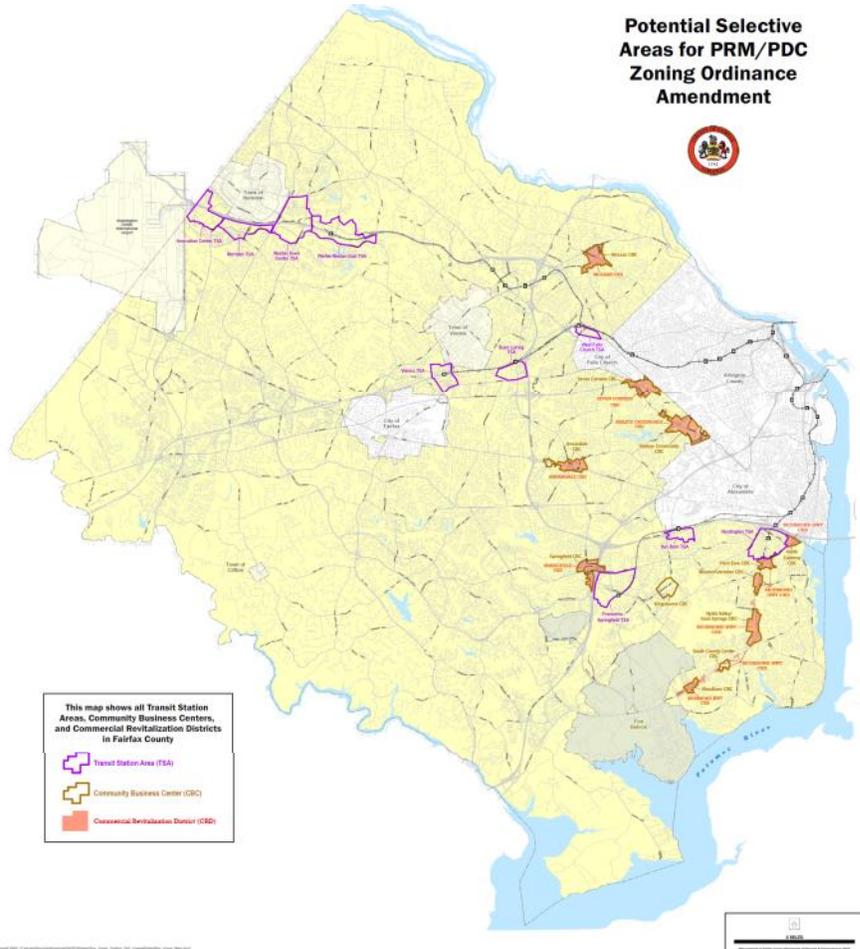
Visit the [Office of Community Revitalization's website](#) to learn more

Places and Infrastructure

PDC/PRM ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT APPROVED

In June 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Planned Development Commercial/Planned Residential Mixed Use (PDC/PRM) Zoning Ordinance Amendment.

It provides the zoning mechanism to allow the opportunity for higher intensity, mixed use communities in Transit Station Areas, Community Business Centers, and in areas focused for revitalization (CRD), in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.



For more information:

- ◇ Department of Planning and Zoning's [PDC/PRM/CRD Amendment site](#)
- ◇ [Selective Areas Map](#)

KINGSTOWNE TOWN CENTER APPROVED TO BECOME WALKABLE, MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

In June 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved plans to add four residential buildings on Kingstowne Village Parkway, adjacent to the bustling shopping and office hub. Within the mixed used development, 10% of the residential units will be reserved for people 55 or older. New ground floor retail, office, and a public plaza are also part of the new development.



More in the NewsCenter

- ◇ [Kingstowne Town Center to Transform Into a Residential, Mixed Use Community](#)

Tysons' Transformation

In the 12 months since the [Tysons 2015 Annual Report](#) was released, significant milestones have been met. Private construction continues; six major buildings were delivered this year and three are currently under construction. A summary of the significant activities follows; additional details and information are provided in the [Tysons 2016 Annual Progress Report](#).

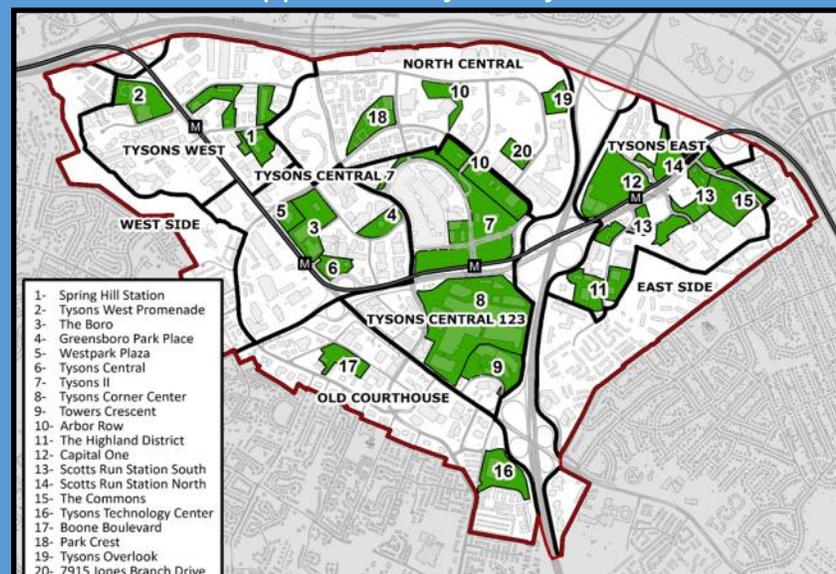
BUILDINGS DELIVERED:

- ◇ The Adaire, a 34-story residential building associated with Spring Hill Station;
- ◇ The Nouvelle, a 27-story residential building associated with Arbor Row;
- ◇ 1775 Tysons Boulevard, a 17-story office building associated with Tysons II;
- ◇ The Haden buildings, two residential towers associated with Scotts Run South; and
- ◇ The 14-story MITRE 4 office building.

October 2015—October 2016 Development Highlights

- Delivery of six major new buildings
- Three more are under construction
- Approval of five major rezoning applications
- Implementation progress on the grid of streets throughout Tysons
- Urban street standards accepted by VDOT
- Review of the Silver Line Metrorail ridership and other modes of transportation
- Delivery of two new urban pocket parks and Westgate Elementary School field upgrade
- Improvements on public facilities proffered

Approved Major Projects



Read the full 264-page 2016 Tysons Annual Progress Report on the [Fairfax County website](#).



Photo courtesy of MPO Patrick Lucas, FCPD, February 22, 2016

CIRQUE DE SOLEIL'S *KURIOUS* MARVELS THOUSANDS

In the summer of 2016, a circus tent rose against the burgeoning skyline of Tysons. Acrobats, jugglers, and other artists performed more than sixty shows. Each signature show drew nearly 2,600 people to Tysons.

Photo courtesy Tysons Partnership



ART INSTALLATIONS ENLIVEN TYSONS

Many of the approved zoning applications have included proffer language providing for the installation of art and/or identifying locations where sculpture, murals, or other public art could be installed. At right, a sculpture by Alice Aycock at 1775 Tysons Boulevard.

CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON THE BORO

Construction of the new urban mixed-use development, The Boro, started in the summer. Fourteen new buildings are ultimately planned for the site adjacent to the Greensboro Metrorail Station. A new full-sized athletic field is also planned in the development.



Rendering

Tysons' Transformation



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Capital One submitted plans to build the 125,000 sq. ft. Capital One Center in their mixed-used development at the McLean Metro Station in Tysons.

The Capital One Center will include a 1,500-seat auditorium that will be used for company training, conferences, and performing arts and entertainment for the community.

PLACEMAKING, POP-UP PARKS, AND INTERIM USES

The 2016 Tysons Reports lists numerous festivals and other signature events in Tysons over the last year, including farmers markets, the Tour de Tysons bicycle race, various art, music, and food festivals. “Slide the City”, a 1,000 foot-long giant water slide came to Westbranch Drive in August for a block party.

Developers in Tysons have also embraced the idea of temporary uses to enliven a space that is slated for redevelopment in the future with pop-up parks or interim uses such as the Tysons Biergarten.

Read the full 264-page 2016 Tysons Annual Progress Report on the [Fairfax County website](#).

Tyson's' Transformation

FOOD TRUCKS NOW LEGAL IN SELECT VDOT RIGHT OF WAYS IN TYSONS

In September 2016, Fairfax County officials posted signs on select streets in Tysons. This ordinance opens up sales on designated public streets in commercial, industrial and planned, mixed use areas. Residential neighborhoods are off limits, however. While Tysons is the first place sanctioned for curbside sales, officials are looking at other areas where trucks can operate, with recommendations coming later this year.



"Food trucks give entrepreneurs a great start in the food service business and bring new options right to their customers," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova. "I look forward to opening up more opportunities for trucks in Fairfax County."

The Health Department oversees the mobile food vending zones and will continue to ensure that food is handled safely and that the rules and regulations for mobile food vending are followed. Like any restaurant, the trucks must have a Food Establishment Permit before beginning operations and are subject to annual inspections and other license requirements.

From the Fairfax County NewsCenter: [Food Trucks May Now Legally Sell From Selected Streets in Tysons](#)



CUSTOMER INFORMATION CENTER OPENS IN HERRITY BUILDING



The new Customer Information Center opened on the first floor of the Herrity Building in September 2016. It provides a first stop for customers, ranging from first time customers to seasoned development professionals, looking for information about the land development process. Centralizing a cross-agency information center saves visiting customers from searching for answers on multiple floors in the building.

The CIC is an example of how the Fairfax First initiative is making our land development process more customer-centric.

More information about Fairfax First initiatives are available [here](#).



JOINT TRAINING ACADEMY PILOT

The Joint Training Academy launched its pilot class of Land Development 101 on September 16 with 35 very enthusiastic and engaged participants who represent all agencies in the development review process. This signature class of the JTA consists of six modules that helps participants in understanding the range of projects that constitute land development and how they tie into Fairfax County's vision for economic success.

More information about Fairfax First initiatives are available [here](#).

FAIRFAX FIRST PROJECT TEAMS KICK-OFF

The effort to improve the speed, consistency, and predictability of the development review process (Goal Three of the Economic Success Strategic Plan) has been dubbed the Fairfax First Initiative. A kickoff event for members of the twelve Fairfax First program teams was held in September. The purpose of the event was to bring the cross-agency teams together to learn about the programs, strengthen relationships, and create excitement for the Fairfax First initiative.



Fairfax County Development Services

DCC | DPWES | DPZ | FCDOT | FCPA | FMO | HD | LDS | OCR



PROJECT MANAGEMENT APPROACH

A new project management approach for regulatory services was launched in 2016 to shepherd significant projects from entitlement through building occupancy. A variety of projects are currently being piloted. The massive Capital One Bank headquarters redevelopment in Tysons is one such project.

When completed, the Capital One headquarters building, seen at right, will be the tallest office building in the Washington Metropolitan Area at 470-feet, and will be the centerpiece of the major mixed use campus development at the McLean Metrorail Station.

For more information:

- ◇ [2016 Tysons Annual Report](#)
- ◇ [Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Approves Capital One's Development in Tysons](#)



FAIRFAX COUNTY RETAINS AAA BOND RATING

The reception of Fairfax County bonds in the market continues to compare favorably both nationally and locally. The County has held a Aaa rating from Moody's since 1975, a AAA rating from Standard and Poor's since 1978, and a AAA rating from Fitch Ratings since 1997. As of January 2016, 11 states, 46 counties, and 33 cities have a Triple-A bond rating from all three major rating agencies. As a result of the County's excellent Triple-A bond rating, the County has saved an estimated \$772.42 million from County bond and refunding sales.

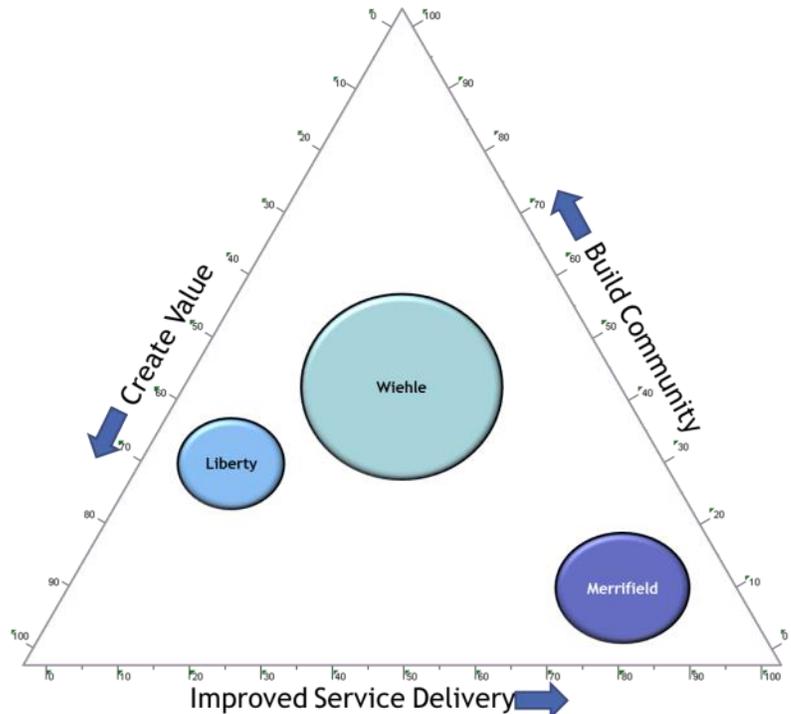
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (P3)

The County continues to attract and leverage partnership opportunities with public and private partners to construct and improve County infrastructure and facilities. Partnership projects are chosen by their ability to deliver improvements to public services, build community, and/or create value for County residents, all important elements of facilitating our future economic success.

There are currently more than 25 projects in various stages of development or implementation.

They include the following:

- ◆ The Lewinsville Center, which is increasing services of the Adult Day Health Care and Senior Centers, providing state-of-the-art child care centers, and increasing affordable housing for seniors.
- ◆ The Herndon Station and Innovation Center Station Garages are adding parking capacity to future Metrorail stations and setting the stage for transit-oriented development.
- ◆ Liberty at Laurel Hill, a mixed use project that is building a vibrant community on the site of a historic penitentiary.
- ◆ The Merrifield Center opened in 2015. It improves service delivery for health care through consolidation of public services and seamless integration with non-profit health care providers.
- ◆ The Residences at the Government Center will open in the coming months. It creates a socially responsible and economically viable housing option for our low and moderate income workforce.
- ◆ Reston Town Center North will transform a 49-acre area into a walkable, mixed-use neighborhood with an expanded library to serve our growing population and improved delivery of human services.
- ◆ Wiehle-Reston Station is a mixed use transit oriented development on the site of a former surface parking lot. A below grade parking structure serves the Silver Line Metrorail station while value is created above with commercial and residential uses. The BLVD at Reston Station, a 448-unit residential apartment building, started leasing in 2016.



For more projects, see the [Public Private Partnerships and Joint Ventures](#) section of the adopted Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2017.

Governance and Financial Stewardship

REGIONAL GO VIRGINIA WORKING GROUP KICKS OFF

As part of Governor McAuliffe’s plan to diversify the Commonwealth’s economy to become less dependent on the Federal Government, GO Virginia was launched as part of the “New Virginia Economy.” A regional working group, comprised of public and private sector representatives, has begun collaboration. Fairfax County EDA President Gerald Gordon is a member of the working group which will develop a strategy and nominate members of the Northern Virginia region’s GO Virginia Regional Council. Then, the group will work for regional cooperation on private-sector growth, job creation, and career readiness.



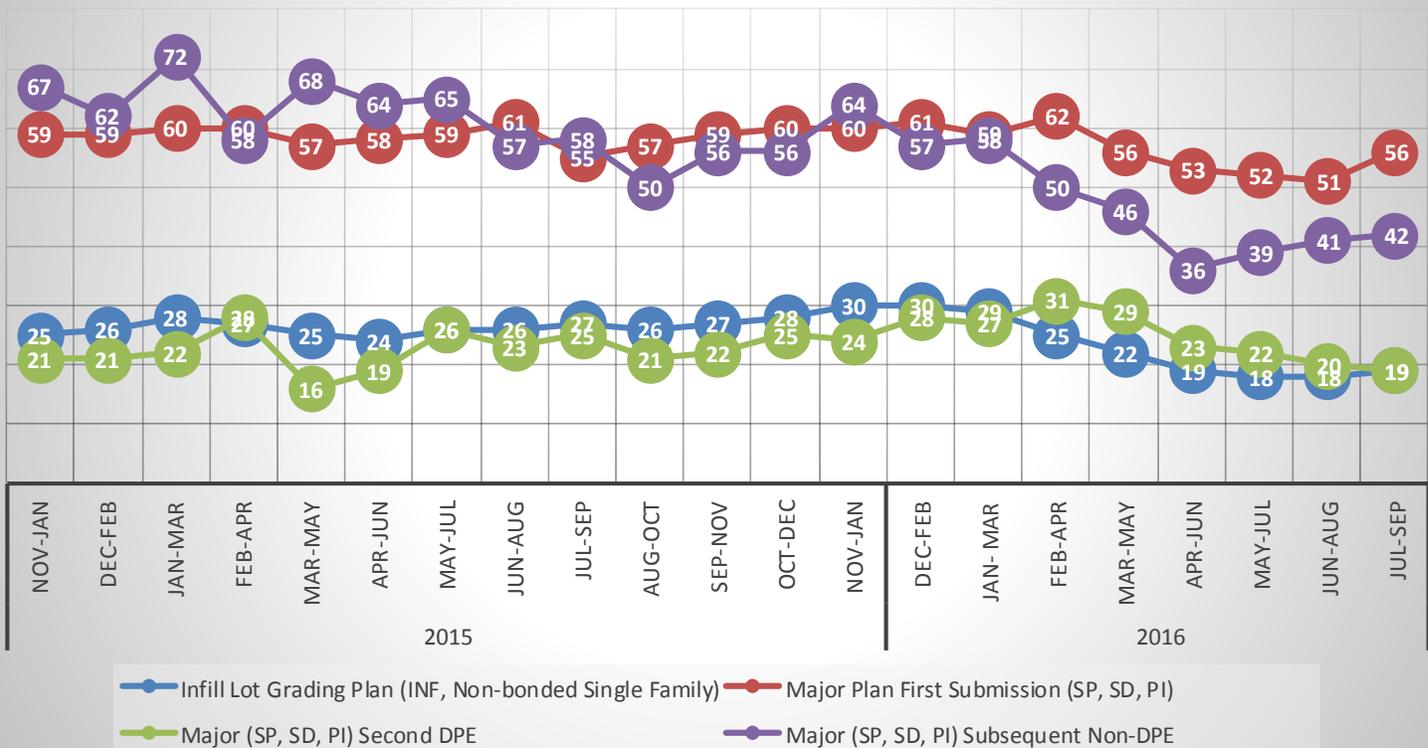
VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

For more information, visit the [GO Virginia website](#).

BOOSTER SHOT APPROVED; PROGRESS CONTINUES

The Booster Shot, approved by the Board of Supervisors in January 2015, deployed resources to improve services and decrease processing time. Some of the progress is exemplified below.

Average Review Time 2015-2016



CRAFT BEVERAGE ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT APPROVED

The County has proposed a new Zoning Ordinance amendment to break out craft beverage establishments as a new use, which opens up more potential areas for them to operate.

The craft beverage establishment amendment is one of 29 items on the recently adopted 2016 Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program that the Department of Planning and Zoning is addressing this year. This amendment will accommodate an innovative use and capitalize on a fast-growing trend and each amendment is a positive step toward modernizing our zoning ordinance, which was adopted in 1978.

See the full September 2016 Development Process Committee Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program [presentation here](#).

FAIRFAX COUNTY MENTORING PLATFORM

A new formal mentoring program kicked off countywide in April 2016, combining online and in-person mentoring resources and opportunities. Mentors are making time to meet with young employees to share their journey and to provide exposure to different leadership styles and different lines of business. The program will be a great tool for staff development and career advancement.



BUILDING OFFICIAL'S BLOG GIVES CUSTOMERS TIMETABLES AND TIPS

The Building Official's Blog provides news and information from Land Development Services' Building Division, which is responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of the public through enforcement of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. The blog has staff news, review timetables, trends, and tips for residents and developers alike, in an effort to improve transparency, communication, and the customer experience.

Read the latest posts in the [Building Official's Blog](#).

E-PLANS SPEEDING UP ZONING APPLICATION PROCESS

Fairfax County's new electronic zoning application submission system is already exceeding expectations for staff review speed. e-Plans allows the County to ditch the inefficiencies—for both developers and planners—resulting from paper-based submissions for major zoning proposals. e-Plans dramatically cut staff review time and speeds up the application acceptance process, thereby allowing the applicant to move forward to the application review and public hearing processes in a much shorter time frame.

For more information:

- ◇ Department of Planning and Zoning's [ePlans Site](#)
- ◇ [Fairfax Speeds Up Its Development Reviews with Paperless Zoning Applications](#) | [Video](#)

PLANNING AND LAND USE SYSTEMS (PLUS) MODERNIZATION PROJECT



The Planning and Land Use Systems (PLUS) Modernization project, part of the Fairfax First initiative, will replace and consolidate several aging systems with a modern technology platform that is driven by re-engineered, streamlined and integrated business processes across the planning and development agencies. The current systems, implemented in the 1990s and early 2000s, are reaching the end of their lifecycles and are no longer supported by the software vendors.

ZONING ORDINANCE REVIEW UNDERWAY

The urban real estate market is ever changing—the types of developments, the technologies used, and all of the elements that create an exciting urban environment. Our goal is to be progressive and agile in order to take advantage of quality economic development opportunities. The Zoning Ordinance review will evaluate our regulations against this vision.

Phase one of this review will be a diagnostic with a consultant and multiple stakeholders to recommend a scope and specific areas that need attention. The Board of Supervisors and staff will use those recommendations to determine whether targeted sections and amendments, or the entire ordinance, require modifications during phase two. This will encourage economic development opportunities while protecting established neighborhoods.

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