

FAIRFAX COUNTY
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations Established 1940

P.O. Box 3913, Merrifield, VA 22116-3913

October 1, 2017

Fairfax County Delegation to the 2018 Virginia General Assembly
Cc: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Dear Fairfax Delegation Member,

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations forwards to you its 2018 Legislative Issues for your consideration, use and action. We will assist you on any Issue.

Each Issue pertains to a Commonwealth-wide subject and is well-researched by a Federation Committee. All are based on the results of the Annual Federation Legislative Survey and on the opinions of Federation Membership. The Federation Board and its Membership approved these final eleven Legislative Issues.

The Federation Membership is home owner, civic, and condominium unit owner associations representing households in every Magisterial District throughout Fairfax County. The Annual Survey was open to all County residents, including non-Federation members and has shown increases in participation each of the past four years. Survey respondents live in all Districts and in 38 of the 44 County zip codes.

The Federation's Board of Directors and its Membership appreciate you representing our communities. We know you understand Fairfax County citizens' concern about these issues and will give them your qualified attention while communicating the status of each Issue back to the Federation.

Queries regarding a specific issue may be directed to the respective preparer listed on the bottom of each Issue page or to the Legislative Committee at FedLegislationChr2018@fairfaxfederation.org.

Respectively submitted,


Bill Barfield
2nd Vice President
Legislative Committee Co-Chair


Tim Thompson
President

Enclosures: Eleven 2018 Legislative Issues

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations 2018 Legislative Issues

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Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

2018 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 18C01 Support Net Metering for Renewable Energy in Virginia

Issue: Virginia lags well behind its neighboring states on renewable energy. Virginia ranks among the worst states in renewable energy development. Distributed generation is a cost effective way to achieve our energy goals, at the same time create economic development and grid resiliency for the Commonwealth. Distributed “rooftop” solar needs to be a vital part of Virginia's booming solar economy because of the high value it brings to all Virginians. Distributed solar needs the proper policy and regulatory support commensurate with its benefits.

Background: Solar is coming on strong—and it is the cheapest energy in Virginia today. Having grown 65% in 2016 alone, there are now more solar jobs than coal jobs in the Commonwealth (3,236 vs. 2,866 in 2016). While solar makes up less than 1% of the electricity supply currently, a PJM study concluded the grid could handle up to 20% solar right now, without any new battery storage. Wind and solar together could make up as much as 30% of our electricity with no significant issues. The result would be less pollution and \$15.6 billion in energy savings. None of the solar under development includes battery storage because electricity from solar all goes into the grid. Bath County, Virginia is home to the world’s largest “battery”, in the form of “pumped storage.” A pair of lake reservoirs provide over 3,000 megawatts of hydropower generating capacity to balance out electric supply and demand.

Existing Conditions/Impacts:

Dominion Energy Virginia’s latest integrated resource plan (IRP) reveals utility-scale solar farms, 20 megawatts (MW) and up, can produce electricity at a cost that beats coal, gas and nuclear. That’s why Dominion’s IRP proposes a build-out of 240 MW of solar per year. This is why: (a) Amazon Web Services has been building 260 MW of solar in five Virginia counties to supply its data centers; (b) over the past year, developers have proposed more than 1,600 MW of additional solar capacity in counties across the state; and (c) solar already employs more Virginians than coal.

Residential solar system owners in Dominion and Appalachian Power service territories are forced to pay a punitive and excessive “stand by charge” for systems over a certain size. Homeowners are also prohibited from building a solar system producing in excess of their previous year’s electric usage. These rules violate our right to be energy self-sufficient on our own property with our own money.

VA net metering is a weak program in that it requires that customers create a power purchase agreement with their utility, which is up to the utility’s discretion, prior to connecting their photovoltaic (PV) solar system to the grid. This barrier prevents potential solar customers from accessing net-metering program benefits and ultimately gives all power to the utility rather than ensuring solar customers are compensated fairly for the energy they provide.

Preferred Position: Support legislation HB 1286 introduced last year. HB 1286 would have stripped away impediments to private investments in renewable energy. As introduced, the legislation would have confirmed the legality of third-party power-purchase agreements (PPAs) for facilities located on a customer’s property, lifted the current 1 percent cap on net metering programs relative to total utility sales, removed the authorization for standby charges on residential and agricultural facilities, removed constraints on system sizes based on historical demand, and authorized community net metering programs.

Benefits:

- Provides Virginia consumers choices and a direct role in choosing their energy sources
- Reduces peak loads on the distribution grid and improve reliability
- Provide the benefits of affordable clean energy resources to Virginians of all income levels and in the Commonwealth
- Supports Virginia job creation and economic opportunity through the development and deployment of solar generation

Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):

Virginia Distributed Solar Collaborative; VASUN; Interfaith Power & Light, Virginia Conservation Network, VA League of Conservation Voters

Lead Federation Committee: Environment / Conservation

Prepared by: Monica Billger and Flint Webb, Co-chairs

Email: FedEnvironmentChr2018@FairfaxFederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

2018 Legislative Issues

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| <p>Issue ID: 18C02 Improve Local Authority to Increase Land and Tree Conservation</p> |
| <p>Issue: Citizens are concerned about the impact of land development, removal of natural spaces and diminished tree canopy throughout the County. The county needs to focus and prioritize green infrastructure and support an increase in urban forest preservation and tree canopy goals.</p> |
| <p>Background: As recommended in the Tree Action Plan, the Board of Supervisors initiated a countywide tree planting program to improve our air and water quality, and to achieve objectives of the board’s environmental agenda. To support the tree planting program, the board established the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund as a mechanism to administer tree-related donations and funding identified in the annual Environmental Improvement Program. However, long term impacts are threatening our tree canopy goal and do not adequately address improving tree canopy in socio-economically disadvantaged areas or give tree preservation the protection it needs in development/redevelopment projects. Threats to worsening air and water quality as well as loss of environmental biodiversity through tree loss exists because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning required landscaping is maturing and needs proactive management. • Screening and parking lot landscaping ordinances need updating. • Additional tree cover will be lost due to infill and redevelopment. • Effects of urbanized environment on trees. • Introduction and damage caused by exotic forest pests, such as emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle. • Expansion of public roads, highways and other transportation corridors. • Continual fragmentation of forested tracts to facilitate installation, expansion and maintenance of utilities and other infrastructure. • Development and expansion of governmental facilities. • Development and expansion of active recreational facilities such as athletic fields. • Tree removal in residential areas brought about by differing cultural values. • Continual introduction and proliferation of invasive plant species. • Degradation of native forests by unmanaged deer populations. • Disposal of yard debris and household chemicals. • Turf grass expansion, forest understory clearing and other human-related impacts. • Impacts of climate change on tree species and other organisms that inhabit forest ecosystems |
| <p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: Fairfax County has implemented the Tree Action Plan, a 20-year strategy for conservation and management of the county's tree resources. The Tree Action Plan was developed using a collaborative process that involved the Tree Commission, county staff, residents and builders. In June of 2007, the board of supervisors formally adopted a 30-year tree canopy goal based on the recommendations in the Tree Action Plan. The goal is to increase Fairfax County's tree cover to 45% by the year 2037. This does not address the current issues of little to no tree canopy in socio-economically disadvantaged areas primed for redevelopment. It does not address urban planning with conscientious green best management practices.</p> |
| <p>Preferred Position: The Federation supports legislation that would optimize tree conservation in county policies, strengthen state-enabling authority for tree conservation, optimize tree conservation in land development and optimize tree conservation in utility and public facilities projects including allowing the use of proffers to increase open space.</p> |
| <p>Benefits: “The trees of our residential areas, schoolyards, parks, and along downtown streets are more than just pretty niceties; they are necessities. They increase property values, cool buildings, take in carbon dioxide, and mitigate air pollution – all valuable economic and ecological benefits. A 2012 analysis shows that there are more than 3.4 million trees in five communities alone and that these urban forests provide nearly \$7 million in annual benefits.” <i>VA Department of Forestry</i>. “Research has shown that properly managed street trees provide up to \$3 in annual benefits for every \$1 invested in their care” (<i>McPherson et al. 2005</i>). Tree conservation improves: (a) Air quality, (b) Reduction in climate change, (c) Water quality and storm water management, (d) Sustainment of the health and diversity of our urban forests.</p> |
| <p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Faith Based Communities, FCPS Get2Green, Audubon Naturalist Society, Audubon National, Sierra Club, Virginia Conservation Network, VA Dept. of Forestry, VA Universities (George Mason, VA Tech), local park Friend’s Of groups, Fairfax Master Naturalists, MOMS Airforce, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Chesapeake Bay Foundation</p> |
| <p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment & Conservation</p> |
| <p>Prepared by: Monica Billger and Flint Webb, Co-chairs</p> |
| <p>Email: FedEnvironmentChr2018@FairfaxFederation.org</p> |

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

2018 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 18C03 Greening Communities through Biophilic Planning and Land Conservation

Issue:

Developing comprehensive conservation policy that will enable Fairfax County to improve and protect the natural environment through biophilic planning during redevelopment of aging infrastructure and communities.

Background:

Biologist E.O Wilson coined the term “biophilia” two decades ago, describing it as “the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms. Innate means hereditary, and hence, part of ultimate human nature.” In a recent study, sectors across industry are reaping the economic benefits of biophilic design.

The Biophilic Cities Project, begun by Tim Beatley at the University of Virginia, aims to explore innovative ways cities can incorporate nature into design and planning. Washington, DC recently became a biophilic city partner. Arlington is currently exploring the partnership.

Existing Conditions/Impacts:

Fairfax County is undergoing several initiatives to redevelop aging community areas into walkable mixed use development projects. The majority of the projects center around communities with little or no access to a park, have little tree canopy, are closest to the counties most heavily polluted streams, and disproportionately affect low-income and/or minority communities in the greatest need of connectivity to nature.

Loss of urban forests, increased impervious surface, degradation of streams, diminishing tree canopy, and invasive tree and plant species continue to threaten what little remains of our diverse ecological habitats and has a negative impact on our environmental health.

Preferred Position:

Support Commonwealth endorsing Biophilic Community Partnerships.

Support legislation to include biophilic design in urban planning.

Support policy language that increases tree canopy (and tree preservation when applicable), pervious surface, and native planting for multi-use development projects.

Benefits:

Improve air and water quality. Increases green space for community health and outdoor connectivity. Improves local habitat biodiversity. Improves economic prosperity. Incorporates One Fairfax visionary policy by providing low-income and socio-economically disadvantaged communities with access to nature, increased and increased walkable green space that also fosters biodiversity.

Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):

Faith Based Communities, FCPS Get2Green, Audubon Naturalist Society, Audubon National, Sierra Club, Virginia Conservation Network, VA Dept. of Forestry, VA Universities (George Mason, VA Tech), local park Friend’s Of groups, Fairfax Master Naturalists, MOMS Airforce, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Lead Federation Committee: Environment

Prepared by: Monica Billger and Flint Webb, Co-chairs

Email & Phone: FedEnvironmentChr2018@FairfaxFederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Legislative Program Issues Evaluation Form

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| Issue ID: 18E01 County-City Revenue Equalization |
| Date Submitted to Legislative Committee: September 11, 2017 |
| Issue: Equalizing the revenue-generating authority of counties with that of cities. |
| Background: The distinction between the taxing authority of Virginia’s cities and counties has been a source of contention for many years. Many believe the distinction has lost any rational basis. Fairfax County serves over one million citizens, and yet is tightly constrained in its ability to address the fiscal needs of its community, whereas municipalities serving a fraction of that number enjoy much greater flexibility. During its 2017 session, the Virginia Senate offered a resolution to study local government fiscal stress, and directed the study to review “the disparity between city and county tax authority.” (ref 17E01, 16E03) |
| Existing Conditions/Impacts: Virginia caps the tax rate that counties (but not cities) can apply to lodging, cigarettes, admissions and meals, and requires that meals taxes in counties (but not cities) be subject to approval by referendum. This produces stark differences between adjacent jurisdictions. For example, while Fairfax County has been authorized by the Commonwealth to charge a county tobacco tax up to the state amount of \$0.30 per package of cigarettes, the city of Alexandria charges \$1.15 per package, the city of Fairfax charges \$0.85 per package, and the city of Falls Church charges \$0.75 per package. Counties have become increasingly reliant on real estate taxes for their revenues. As the state’s financial support for K-12 education has shrunk, county school systems are particularly vulnerable to relying on counties for funding, and counties are (in turn) limited in their ability to raise taxes other than real estate taxes. |
| Preferred Position: The Federation should support legislative efforts to equalize the revenue-generating authority of counties with that of cities. |
| Benefits: Counties increasingly experience the same kinds of pressures as urban areas, such as higher poverty levels and crime, and the costly solutions require a more flexible revenue-generating approach. Equalizing the tax treatment of counties and cities would permit a much-needed diversification of revenue streams in county budgets, and would better allow counties to match their communities’ needs with appropriate resources. |
| Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Educational organizations and county governments |
| Lead Federation Committee: Education Committee |
| Prepared by: Nancy Trainer and Ed Saperstein |
| Email & Phone: FedEducationChr2018@FairfaxFederation.org |

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
2018 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 18E02 English for Speakers of Other Languages & Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Issue: Providing educational funding from the Commonwealth that takes into account two indicators of higher educational costs: (1) the number of students who require instruction in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and (2) the number of students who receive Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FRM).

Background: Students who require instruction in ESOL and/or who receive FRM are among the populations most at risk of educational failure. Both student groups require additional time, attention, and resources. FCPS estimates that the cost of providing ESOL services adds 30 percent to the cost of educating a student. Low income students often require additional instruction and remediation, and their lack of at-home resources and support place them at a well-documented disadvantage when they enter the classroom. Meanwhile, the achievement gap between various groups of students has proven difficult to narrow, let alone close. (ref 17E02)

Existing Conditions/Impacts: Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) serve a diverse student population, in which approximately 52,000 (or 28% of the total student population) are eligible for FRM and approximately 28,000 (or 15% of the total population) receive ESOL services. The percentage of students in these two categories have grown significantly since the major recession, while overall state aid levels for education have declined. Title I federal funds (for children in poverty) and Title III federal funds (for children receiving ESOL services) make up little of the difference between children's needs and the funding required to meet those needs.

Preferred Position: Support legislation to create educational funding that addresses the needs of ESOL and FRM students. Provide per-student funding for students in these two categories in order to provide these students with the resources they need to be successful, throughout the Commonwealth.

Benefits: Targeting educational funding for students in the categories of ESOL and FRM will help address the achievement gap that has long existed among students whose demographic characteristics vary. In addition, by basing funding on a per-student basis, we ensure that these funds are properly reaching at risk children in all communities.

Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Educational organizations and county governments, particularly in areas with greater numbers of ESOL and FRM-eligible students.

Lead Federation Committee: Education

Prepared by: Nancy Trainer and Ed Saperstein, Co-chairs

Email: FedEducationChr2018@FairfaxFederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
2018 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 18E03 School Opening Date

Issue:

Local school boards are generally not permitted to set their own opening date of the school year.

Background:

The “Kings Dominion” Law was adopted by the Virginia General Assembly in the 1980s to help amusement parks and other tourism attractions staff their businesses with a summer labor pool of high school age workers. Today’s economy has changed; the tourism industry is attracting various workers in other age groups. But now the tourism industry contends that a change of law would hurt tourism. Almost all states allow schools to start before Labor Day, including states whose economies are heavily dependent on tourism such as Florida and California. As Virginia Beach Public Schools said in supporting a change in law, “If a pre-Labor Day start was really damaging to a state’s economy, it would have been banned across the country a long time ago.” (ref 17E03, 16E02, 15E02)

Existing Conditions/Impacts:

The Code of Virginia mandates under the so-called “Kings Dominion” Law that schools open after Labor Day. As a result, FCPS students have less classroom time before standardized tests such as Virginia’s Standards of Learning (SOL) exams, and nationwide Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) tests. The AP and IB tests figure substantively in college admissions, scholarships, course selection and advanced standing. The current law puts our students at a competitive disadvantage as almost all states allow schools to start before Labor Day. There is a limited waiver that FCPS normally cannot qualify under. Due to all the snow days over the last several years FCPS will qualify for the waiver this school year and the next 2 school years.

Preferred Position:

Support legislation permitting local school boards to set the opening date of the school year without need for the limited waiver.

Benefits:

It would help our FCPS students as it would most likely provide more instructional time before standardized tests such as the SOL, AP and IB.

Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):

FCPS and about 120 of the 130+ school districts in Virginia, the Virginia PTA and Fairfax County PTA

Lead Federation Committee: Education

Prepared by: Nancy Trainer and Ed Saperstein, Co-chairs

Email: FedEducationChr2018@FairfaxFederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
2018 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 18G01 – Fair Redistricting in Virginia

Issue: The current redistricting process is biased and, therefore, unfair.

Background: Gerrymandered districts are noted by their torturous and obscure shapes. Many of Virginia’s Congressional and State legislative district boundaries don’t adhere to the typical standards of compactness, contiguity, and balanced citizen representation. There is growing nationwide support for transparency and open government at every legislative level, including establishing reasonable legislative boundaries. Current redistricting frequently has as one of its goals ensuring that current legislators will be re-elected. Re-election is ensured by grouping precincts on the basis of their party votes. The process is called gerrymandering. Of note is that the Virginia Senate ranks tenth in the Nation for having the lowest average compactness (i.e., tenth in the torturous and obscure shape factor!). In the 2018 Federation Survey, 76% of Fairfax residents agreed that a comprehensive redistricting effort to redraw Virginia’s legislative boundaries is needed. Only 10% of residents disagreed. Redistricting should be done such that most political races are competitive. A constitutional amendment might be used or the Iowa plan might be used. The Iowa plan would be the easier method. If it does not result in competitive races, a constitutional amendment would be used. The constitutional amendment might require that the district have a ratio of north-south to east-west dimensions of, for example, between 0.8 and 1.25. Because of the combined impacts of political boundaries and physical geography, other factors may be taken into consideration when looking at a particular district, such as shape, contiguity, and respect for political subdivisions. Many goals of gerrymandering are possible to achieve without resorting to strange district shapes.

Existing Conditions/Impacts: Redistricting and Gerrymandering: Gerrymandering is deliberate manipulation of legislative boundaries for political power. Election outcomes are affected because gerrymandering: Reduces electoral competition, Reduces voter turnout, Determines outcomes in the party primary elections/conventions, Increases incumbent advantage, and Increases election costs due to broader area canvassing and media buys.

Gerrymandering frequently groups people of considerably different interests and persuasions and frequently discourages voters from electing new officials. Virginia’s Congressional Districts 10 and 11, and Virginia House District 72 are typical of the results of gerrymandering.

Preferred Position: Support establishment of a non-partisan redistricting commission for all Commonwealth legislative districts.

Benefits: The benefits of the resolution would be easy comprehension of all districts and fair representation for all Virginia voters.

Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):
Voters, The League of Women Voters, OneVirginia2021, NetworkNoVA

Lead Federation Committee: Legislation/Governance

Prepared by: Bill Barfield, Co-chair

Email: FedLegislationChr2018@fairfaxfederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

2018 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 18G02 Taxation Equity for Fairfax County

Issue: Fairfax County experiences tax inequities for both the County and its residents: (1) Virginia does not return an equitable share of tax revenue back to Fairfax County; (2) Fairfax County tax revenue is largely dependent on real estate tax; and (3) Counties in Virginia are not able to tap alternative revenue sources while Cities and Towns in Virginia can.

Background: Many factors determine and effect the inequity and fairness of the tax system - both between the Counties and the State and within the Counties. There has been ongoing efforts over the years to address the inequity and unfairness but with little resolution. FFC and all more well off Counties of the State would fare much better and the system would be more equitable if the Counties are treated in balance as it now treats the Cities of the State. The Cities now set their own diverse and flexible revenue streams without constant need for referendums or meddling by the State Legislature.

Existing Conditions/Impacts: The tax equity between Fairfax County and the richer Counties and the State is out of balance with the richer counties subsidizing the less well-off counties of the State. This by itself is not equitable and not fair. Fairfax is always searching for new and more reliable tax revenue streams but then again it is hobbled by the State denying the ability to use alternative tax methods without each being offered as a referendum, which almost guarantees it will fail. Therefore FFC and the other richer Counties are left to raise its money through Real Estate tax assessments. Present tax system's inequity is beginning to rip the fabric of our communities into pieces.

Preferred Position:

Support legislation that provides more proportionate and equitable revenue return to Fairfax County. Treat all localities fairly and equitably with regard to taxation by allowing Counties the same tax revenue flexibility as the Cities now enjoy while also returning a fairer share of the tax revenue FFC sends to the state.

Benefits: Makes the system more equitable by diversifying the tax revenue stream and by reducing our sole dependence on Real Estate Taxes, thereby allowing more citizens to pay an equitable and fair share of the tax burden.

Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):

Property Owners, County elected officials, Virginia State elected officials (both Republicans & Democrats), informed residents of Fairfax County.

Lead Federation Committee: Legislation

Prepared by: Pete Sitnik, Co-chair

Email: FedLegislationChr2018@fairfaxfederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
2018 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 18P03-Prohibit Use of Hand-Held Devices While Driving

Issue: Distracted Drivers are a documented often-lethal threat to themselves, vehicle occupants, other motorized vehicles and their occupants, cyclists, pedestrians, and road-workers. In fact, DISTRACTION is now the Number 1 cause of motor vehicle accidents in the US. To increase safety to the citizens and property of the Commonwealth, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations requests a Legislative Action to make the use of Hands-Free devices MANDATORY and PROHIBIT the use of any personal hand-held device for the purpose of talking, transmitting, reading any type of display and writing, even by using symbols or icons. Exceptions would apply for the following: Vehicle Operators while lawfully parked; Vehicle Operators using a GPS navigation system; Operators of emergency vehicles while engaged in the performance of their official duties; Any person if reporting an emergency.

Background: (Previously submitted as 15P01 on 1 Oct 2014 and 17P02 on 18 Oct 2016). Currently, full restrictions only address drivers under the age of 18, who are prohibited to text or use a cell phone while driving. Restrictions addressing adult drivers ONLY prohibit TEXTING while driving and reading of texts and e-mails. Currently, the law does NOT prohibit the use of Hand-held devices, or reading of any material displayed and writing by using symbols or icons. Distracted Drivers are a danger to themselves, vehicle occupants, other vehicles, and pedestrians on the road.

Existing Conditions/Impacts: This initiative aims at prohibiting the use of ALL hand-held interactive personal devices for ALL drivers, while operating a moving vehicle. No impacts are seen in terms of costs. However, saving even one life will have a great, positive impact and will relieve the social burdens resulting from loss of life or injuries.

Preferred Position: Legislation should require that cell phones and other interactive personal equipment be hands-free. It further should prohibit the use of any personal hand-held device for the purpose of talking, transmitting, reading any material displayed and writing, even if using symbols or icons. This prohibition would not apply to: Vehicle Operators while lawfully parked; Vehicle Operators using a GPS navigation system; Operators of emergency vehicles while engaged in the performance of their official duties; Any person if reporting an emergency.

Benefits: Increased safety on the roads. Decreased number of accidents with consequent loss of lives, property, work productivity, and psychological distress.

Potential Supporters: (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Virginia and Fairfax County Bi-partisan Senators and Delegates (**HOUSE BILL NO. 1834**); Fairfax County Board of Supervisors'; Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (FCFCA) Members

Lead Federation Committee: Public Safety

Prepared by: Daniela D. Cockayne and Patrick Smaldore, Co-chairs

Email: FedPublicSafetyChr2018@fairfaxfederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
2018 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 18T01 Dedicated Metro Funding

Issue:

WMATA needs dedicated funding that can be used to (a) maintain the system in a safe state of good repair and operation, and (b) plan for and expand the Metro system.

Background:

The current Metro General Manager, Paul J. Wiedefeld, indicates Metro needs \$15.5 billion over 10 years, including \$500 million in annual dedicated funding, to keep the system safe and reliable. Wiedefeld said the money was for safety and core system upgrades, including power system enhancements allowing increased use of eight-car trains, rebuilding tracks that weren't part of SafeTrack, replacing deteriorated infrastructure and replacing legacy rail cars.

In addition, Wiedefeld outlined \$9.5 billion in anticipated needs not covered in his proposal. The additional money could be used for projects such as a second Potomac River tunnel to relieve chronic congestion and a permanent fix for water infiltration problems that create repeated arcing incidents on the Red Line.

In addition, Wiedefeld has proposed capping growth in the annual subsidies the District, Maryland and Virginia contribute to the agency at 3 percent. The growth is meant to cover merely the cost of inflation and does not include expenses such as the extra cost of operating phase 2 of the Silver Line or restoring late-night service.

Existing Conditions/Impacts:

There isn't sufficient funding to fund safety and core system upgrades, including power system enhancements allowing increased use of eight-car trains, rebuilding tracks that weren't part of SafeTrack, replacing deteriorated infrastructure and replacing legacy rail cars. Nor is their funding to operate phase 2 of the Silver Line or restore late-night service.

Preferred Position:

The Federation recommends that the Virginia jurisdictions, which are part of the WMATA compact, plan to fund their proportional share of the \$500 million in annual dedicated funding required. The Federation recommends that the NVTC along with the Commonwealth Secretary of Transportation determine the best source for this dedicated funding, and the state legislature pass all enabling legislation to make it possible to implement the dedicated funding source in a timely manner.

Benefits:

A identified and steady stream of funding can be monetized and bonded, so that the safety and core system upgrades, including power system enhancements allowing increased use of eight-car trains, rebuilding tracks that weren't part of SafeTrack, replacing deteriorated infrastructure and replacing legacy rail cars, might be financed in an expedited manner, rather than waiting for the incremental funding to be available.

Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):

County Supervisors, Fairfax County legislative delegation, Representatives serving Fairfax and our two Senators

Lead Federation Committee: Transportation

Prepared by: Jeff Parnes, Co-chair

Email: fedtransportationchr2018@fairfaxfederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
2018 Legislative Issues

Issue ID: 18Y01 Library Funding from the Commonwealth

Issue:

All residents of the State of Virginia should be treated equally when apportioning support for essential services.

Background:

The State of Virginia recognizes that access to a public library is essential to have an educated, informed public. The State thus helps local communities (Counties and Cities) to support free public libraries by providing funding based on population. However, not all citizens are counted equally – funding drops by two-thirds (from \$0.30 to \$0.10 per person) after a County’s population reaches 600,000. In Virginia only one County has more than 600,000 people – Fairfax County.

Existing Conditions/Impacts:

The Fairfax Library system serves a diverse and growing population. The lower level of support based on population limits the County from offering the level of service that could best ensure the continued success of the entire region. The loss of proper funding constrains the Library from maintaining, much less expanding, its holdings of books and materials and its offering of programs.

Preferred Position:

All residents of Virginia should be counted the same. Fund the library at the same rate per person without any distinction based on the size of the County.

Benefits:

New businesses are attracted to Fairfax and thus Virginia by the educated workforce and consumers we offer. National studies show an excellent Library system is an important consideration in attracting companies to a region. As the State relies on the economic engine of Fairfax, it is in the State’s interest to support those features that give Virginia a competitive advantage over other regions.

Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):

Friends of the Fairfax Library, Fairfax County Public Schools.

Lead Federation Committee: Library

Prepared by: Dennis Hays, Chairman

Email: FedLibraryChr2018@fairfaxfederation.org