



Supervisor Tony Buffington
Blue Ridge District
NewsFlash



Passed! Dulles Farms Traffic Calming Update

Proposed Traffic Calming Measures in the Virginia Manor and White Oak Crest Neighborhoods in the Dulles Farms Community Association Passed the Board of Supervisors

Sent: January 27, 2021



On July 16, 2018, our office received a letter from the Dulles Farms Community Association requesting a traffic calming study to be performed by Loudoun County due to the perceived excessive speeding in the Virginia Manor and White Oak Crest neighborhoods.

Over the last two years we worked closely with the community to address the concerns and identify solutions.

I want to share what the Board of Supervisors passed in December of 2020 as a result of the traffic

calming study findings but also share the timeline and background related to what lead up to this vote.

As many residents know, prior to us receiving this letter the Dulles Farms Task Force conducted a communitywide survey to understand the extent of the problem as perceived by the residents.

The following results were shared with our office:

- 96% of the residents indicated that addressing excessive speeding was important and 76% said it was very important.
- 83% of the residents defined excessive speeding on the community's network of 25 mph speed limit roads as anything over 30 mph.

Understanding this was a community wide issue, we engaged with County staff to work on addressing the problem and identifying solutions.

What Passed:

To address the speeding problem in the Virginia Manor and White Oak Crest neighborhoods, Loudoun's Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure (DTCI) proposed the following mitigating measures:

- **Additional \$200 Fine signs at neighborhood entry points**
 - On Royal Hunter Drive at Braddock Road.
 - On Lennox Hale Drive at Gum Spring Road.
 - On Success Drive at Laughter Drive (Route 1283).
 - On Racing Sun Drive at Lennox Hale Drive and at Winning Glory Drive.
- **5 "Watch for Children" signs at neighborhood entry points**
 - On Royal Hunter Drive at Braddock Road.
 - On Lennox Hale Drive at Gum Spring Road.
 - On Success Drive at Laughter Drive.
 - On Winning Glory Drive at Seven Hills Drive on eastbound and westbound direction.

- **5 Speed Humps**

- On Lennox Hale Drive fronting the tot lot between Walden Knoll Court (Route 3318) and Juniper Hill Court (Route 3319).
- On Royal Hunter Drive fronting 25584, 25585, 25588 and 25589 Royal Hunter Drive.
- On Racing Sun Drive fronting 25764, 25765, 25768 and 25769 Racing Sun Drive.
- On Racing Sun Drive between Oak Crest Circle (Route 3079) and Piebald Square approximately 100 linear feet north of Piebald Square.
- On Success Drive between Suffolk Downs Court (Route 3525) and Arbor Shade Path Place at approximately 150 linear feet northwest of Arbor Shade Path Place (Route 3523).

- **1 Raised Crosswalk**

- On Lennox Hale Drive between Purebred Court (Route 3313) and Success Drive approximately 100 linear feet south from Purebred Court.

The Process:

Virginia Manor's 1200 homes, located in the Blue Ridge District, comprised the largest and most complex area involved in the plan. Upon receiving the request, we immediately engaged with community leaders, VDOT and DTCI in order to make sure the process had every chance of a successful outcome.

Loudoun County has an 8 step process to address requests for traffic calming within communities. Early in the process, they perform a study of the trips and speeds on neighborhood roads to see if they qualify. County and State traffic experts that met after conducting a traffic study within Virginia Manor, called the speeds within the neighborhood streets alarming.

The Findings:

- One street in the study, Racing Sun, averaged 1324 trips per day. More than 85% of the vehicles were clocked at over 46 mph even though the speed limit is only 25.
- While successfully navigating the Loudoun County's traffic calming program is generally an uphill challenge for a modest 200 home community, the sheer size Dulles Farms, with almost 1800 homes, was overwhelming.
- The Traffic Calming program is handled within Loudoun County Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure (DTCI) and to date, this was the largest, most complicated community ever to be tackled.

More Background (associated graph below): In October 2018, DTCI collected speed and traffic volume data over a 48-hour period on Royal Hunter Drive, Lennox Hale Drive, Racing Sun Drive and Winning Glory Drive (Route 3315). The data collected on Winning Glory Drive was inconclusive. At the request of the community, Success Drive was later added to the area of study. In June 2019, data was collected on Winning Glory Drive and Success Drive. The collected data, listed in Table 1, indicated that the 85th percentile speed exceeded the posted speed limit by at least 10 mph except on Winning Glory Drive. Additionally, the volumes for all the streets ranged between 1,324 and 2,060 Vehicles Per Day (VPD), which is within the qualifying criteria of the program. As a result, Royal Hunter Drive, Lennox Hale Drive, Racing Sun Drive and Success Drive qualified for the installation of traffic calming measures.

Table 1: Summarized Speed and Volume Data (October 2018)

Location	Roadway Classification	Posted Speed Limit (MPH)	85 th Percentile Speed (MPH)	Speed Difference	Traffic Volume (VPD)
Royal Hunter Drive	Local	25	37	+12	1,195
Lennox Hale Drive	Local	25	42	+17	2,060
Racing Sun Drive	Local	25	46	+21	1,324
Winning Glory Drive*	Local	25	33	+8	1,919
Success Drive*	Local	25	38	+13	1,255

*Data collected in June 2019

The Plan

The Task Force developed a proposed plan that was later optimized by DTCI and VDOT experts. Our office worked with all the parties on the plan development oversight and my staff spent several days observing actual traffic patterns on sight with representatives from DTCI, VDOT and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS).

After the proposed plan was developed, the Task Force, DTCI and our office attended communitywide meetings to gain additional input from residents.

Based on that input, tweaks were made to the final plan.

"Drive 25" campaign

Resident engagement, input and support is essential in order to make changes of this nature. In order for the Plan to be adopted, more than 50% of the occupied residences need to vote by mail-in ballot for the plan within 30 days.

Since the balloting process for a community of this size was a high bar to meet, the Task Force put together a campaign that was named "Drive 25". Volunteers were recruited and a door-to-door effort was ready to go into effect once Loudoun County mailed out the ballots in the spring of 2019.

As they approached kick-off, COVID hit in full force and plans were understandably put on hold. The Task Force adjusted their campaign strategy during the summer and decided to launch in September. Launching any later and they would run the risk of the Presidential election distracting from the ability to have "Drive 25" mail-in ballots returned in a timely manner.

As the Task Force analyzed the progress of the mail-in ballots, they found that almost 90% of all ballots approved, but half way through the 30-day ballot process only 45% of the residents had returned their ballots.

Without the ability to knock on doors due to COVID, the Task Force launched an effort to contact non-voting homes through direct mail, emails and other social media. As a result of the ballot process, 553 households (56 percent) indicated agreement with the proposed traffic calming plan. Additionally, DTCI received a letter from the Dulles Farms HOA dated October 27, 2020 indicating support of the proposed measures and associated placement locations. VDOT also expressed support of the proposed plan.

To review the Board of Supervisors document on this action item, [please click here](#) and scroll down to "action items" and click on #9 entitled *Item 09 Proposed Traffic Calming Measures in Virginia Manor and White Oak*.

THANK YOU!!!

I want to personally thank my colleagues, my staff, county staff, the HOA representatives and everyone else who participated in this successful traffic calming effort!

Coronavirus - We're in it together, we'll get through it together - Tony

Be safe!



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