



Supervisor Tony Buffington  
**Blue Ridge District**  
*NewsFlash*



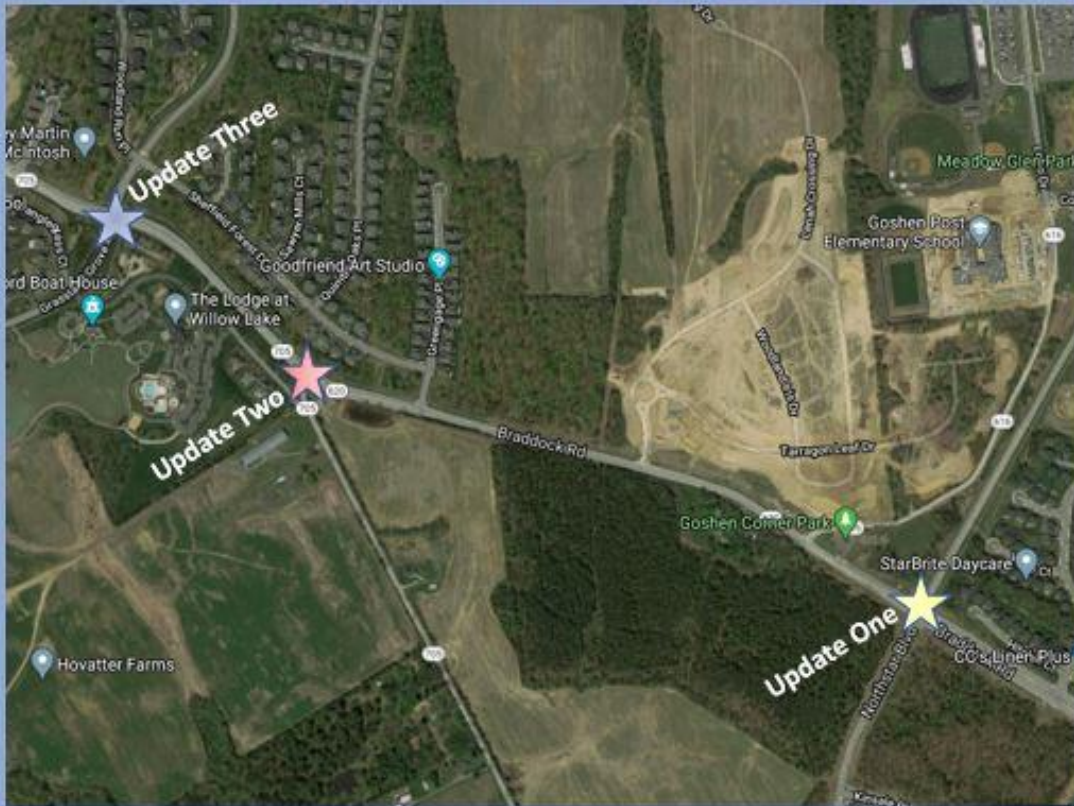
# Intersection & Roundabout Updates!

**March 13, 2020**

Good morning!

I wanted to update you on the status of a number of Braddock Road intersections, along with the interim and future plans for the Trailhead & Route 50 intersection.

## Braddock Road Intersections Update 2020



### **UPDATE ONE:**

#### **Braddock & Northstar Blvd Traffic Signal**

This intersection was a 2-way stop when I came into office and it had failed a state required VDOT warrant study to qualify for a traffic signal. In working together with Supervisor Letourneau's office and VDOT, we were able to have it upgraded to a 4-way stop (current condition). Since that time, Supervisor Letourneau and I have been working to construct what we believe to be a much-needed signal at the intersection. In 2017, Loudoun conducted a countywide "uncontrolled intersection study" in order to create a prioritized list of intersections most in need of signal installation based on intersection safety and a variety of other factors. The intersection scored well in that study, receiving a 4 out of 5 priority rating (5 being most in

need); however, a number of intersections received higher scores of 5, thus delaying recommended progress on this one. Based on area growth and the possibility of delay, I worked with VDOT for approval to utilize future growth data in order to aid the intersection in passing a new VDOT Warrant Study. Subsequently, the Loudoun Board of Supervisors approved funding to move forward with a traffic signal justification study in order to help justify and accelerate the signal. Based on the results of the county study and Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) construction of Lightridge High School in the vicinity of the intersection (scheduled to open in August of 2020), the intersection has now met warrant for traffic signal installation. LCPS will design and install the new traffic signal to address the impact of the opening of Lightridge High School. The new signal will be accompanied by a new right hand turn lane for southbound Northstar Blvd traffic wishing to turn westbound onto Braddock Road. The project will also include repaving of the intersection to fix grading issues and provide for smoother transitions. The project will include all associated signage and road striping. Design plans have been reviewed and approved by VDOT and LCPS is proceeding with completing the signal. **It is anticipated that the work will be completed prior to the opening of Lightridge High School in August of 2020.**

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## **UPDATE TWO:**

### **Braddock & Lightridge Roundabout**

Due to the anticipated August of 2020 opening of Lightridge High School along Lightridge Farm Road, and the expected impact on the intersection of Lightridge and Braddock, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) is required to construct improvements to the existing intersection in order to address the anticipated impact and improve the intersections level of service. As such, LCPS issued a contract for construction of a roundabout at Braddock and Lightridge Farm Road, and for frontage improvements along Lightridge Farm Road adjacent to LCPS's property. Work on the project began upon Board of

Supervisor approval of a Capital Improvement Program fund transfer at the September 3, 2019, Business meeting. **It is anticipated that the work will be completed prior to the opening of Lightridge High School in August of 2020.**

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**UPDATE THREE:**

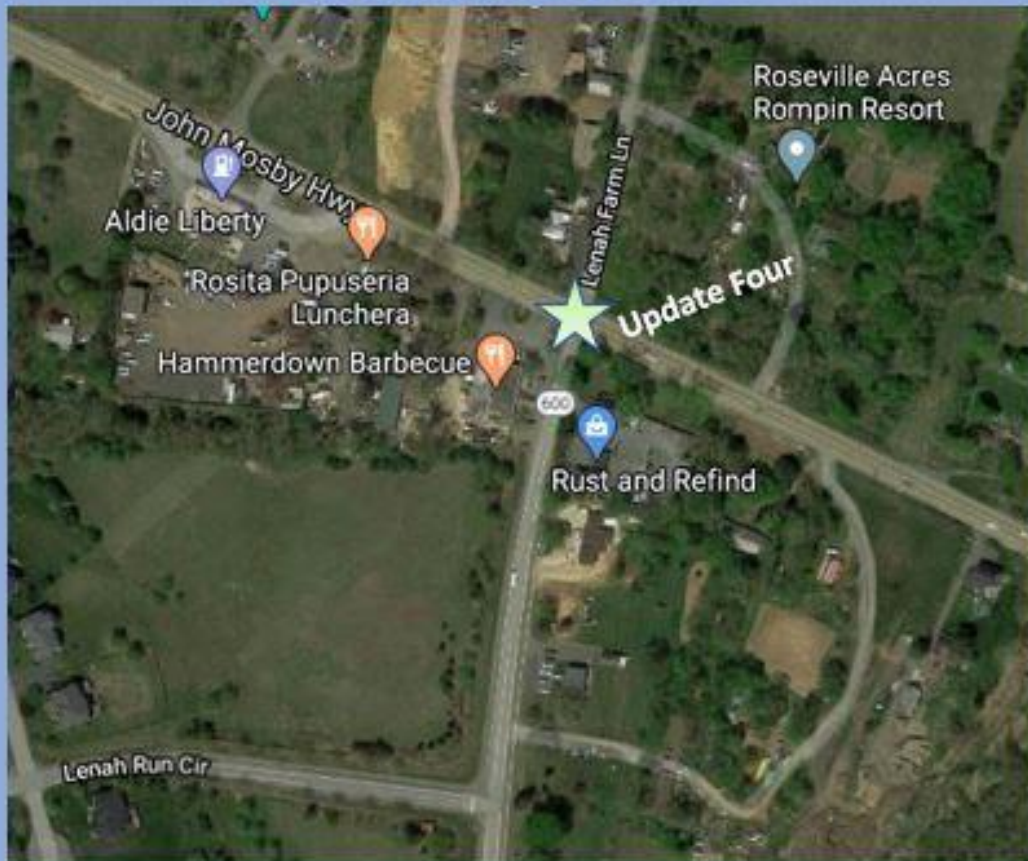
**Braddock & Trailhead  
(interim 4-way-stop and future roundabout)**

On April 3, 2018, my request to add construction of a roundabout at the Braddock and Trailhead intersection as a new project within the County's FY 2019 to FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) with funding in FY 2024 and future years, was approved. This was critical as no project can be funded and constructed by the County without having been approved and listed as a line item within the CIP. Design of the roundabout is currently scheduled to take place in FY 2024 through FY 2025. Land acquisition is slated for FY 2026 with construction of the roundabout in a future year; however, I always seek to accelerate projects within our District, so hopefully that will be the case for this one.

As an interim improvement as we await construction of the roundabout, my office worked with LCPS who agreed to jointly fund improvement of the current 2-way-stop intersection, to a 4-way-stop intersection. **It is anticipated that the 4-way-stop work will be completed prior to the opening of Lightridge High School in August of 2020.**

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## Trailhead and Rt 50



### **UPDATE FOUR:**

#### **Trailhead & Rt 50 (interim no-left-turn and future roundabout)**

My office worked hard to change the County's future plan for this intersection from traffic signal to a roundabout since it is in the "Rt 50 Traffic Calming Corridor" and I believe that roundabouts are more appropriate than signals in this area. Along the way, the project was successfully added to the state's "Transaction" list, making it eligible for state funding. I was initially able to have the project added as a new project within the County's FY 2019 to FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) with funding in FY2022, 2023 and 2024. In a

subsequent budget cycle, I became aware of a funding opportunity and asked my colleagues to support a 3-year acceleration of the project due to ongoing development, new area schools, and increased intersection safety concerns. With their support, we were able to make this happen! Field surveys, environmental studies and design work are underway with a public information session expected to occur around Spring of 2020. The design will be further improved based upon any public comment, and submitted along with the environmental document to VDOT for approval. A design-build Request for Proposals (RFP) will then be completed. The design-build RFP is anticipated to be issued in early 2021 in order to procure a contractor. Once a contract is awarded, the awardee will finalize the design, obtain any necessary right-of-way for the project, coordinate relocation of utilities, and construct the roundabout. **It is anticipated that construction of the roundabout will be completed by the end of 2021.**

**Interim Solution prior to construction of the roundabout:**

Continued development of previously approved housing, construction of new public schools, the addition of a new restaurant adjacent to the intersection, along with increased traffic due to the merging and realignment of Trailhead and Lenah Road (now renamed Trailhead Road), have resulted in increased use and reduced safety of the intersection. As such, my office worked with VDOT, the Sheriff's Office, and county transportation staff to identify an interim solution to increase safety until the future roundabout is constructed and open to traffic. To date, we have been able to obtain VDOT installation of additional and larger intersection signage, tree removals to improve line-of-sight, relocation of the Hammerdown BBQ sign for increased visibility for drivers, and consideration of a variety of other interim improvements. Based upon area resident and HOA recommendations, along with county transportation staff input, the best feasible interim level-of-service and safety improvement was determined to be implementation of a morning (6:00-9:00 a.m.) right-turn-only restriction to improve intersection safety and reduce wait times for northbound Trailhead Drive traffic to turn eastbound onto Route 50.

At the request of LCPS, VDOT has agreed to allow buses to be exempt from the restriction.

By way of background, in order to obtain VDOT approval for the morning right-turn-only interim solution, I needed to know, and be able to prove to VDOT, that a majority of area residents supported the idea. As such, my office asked the Lenah Run and Grove at Willowsford HOA's to inform their residents of my community meeting at Willard Intermediate School on September 17th of 2019. Those in attendance were overwhelmingly supportive of implementation and departed with the task of speaking with their neighbors and HOA representatives to ascertain whether a majority of residents were supportive of implementation. My staff followed up with the Lenah Run and Grove at Willowsford HOA's to advise that we needed written letters of support from both HOA's prior to requesting VDOT approval and installation of the morning right-turn-only restriction. In addition to the community meeting, my staff communicated directly with a number of residents, and attended an HOA meeting to answer questions and provide additional information. Both the Lenah Run and Grove at Willowsford HOA's provided written letters of support for implementation of the morning right-turn-only restriction, and my office subsequently requested VDOT approval and installation of the necessary morning right-turn-only signage. **VDOT recently approved the interim solution and is currently in the process of making the signage. As of now, VDOT expects to install the morning right-turn-only signage by the end of this month (March of 2020).**

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As always, I will keep you informed as additional information becomes available!

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. [unclear]".

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