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[Return to story](#)

## Meeting set on plans for Lafayette Boulevard upgrades

**March 16, 2009 1:10 am**

IF YOU LIVE near Lafayette Boulevard in Fredericksburg or Spotsylvania--or just drive on it--you may want to attend a community meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Spotswood Baptist Church.

Conceptual plans to improve safety and cyclist/pedestrian/vehicle/transit use on the road will be presented by the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. FAMPO is finishing a \$300,000 study of improvements to Lafayette.

Project officials will make a presentation at 6:45 p.m.

The public can review project materials on display anytime between 6:30 and 8 p.m. and submit comments.

Dear Kelly: Why hasn't VDOT posted the speed limit on State Route 606 (Morris Road) between U.S. 1 and the stoplight at Snell (going toward State Route 208 to Lake Anna)?

My friend's daughter had to ask her driving instructor what the speed limit was and was told it was 55 mph. Is this correct? The only signs I've observed say "End of 35 mph" I've seen on multiple occasions government vehicles go anywhere from 35 mph to 60 mph.

--Jennifer Watson-Kelly, Spotsylvania

The speed limit is 55 mph. On rural routes in Virginia, the speed limit is 55 mph whenever the limit is unposted. The 35 mph speed limit is for the approaches to the traffic signal at Snell and U.S. 1 in Thornburg. There's a slowdown near the intersections to prevent crashes.

So once you pass the "End 35 mph" signs, the limit reverts to 55 mph.

Dear Kelly: I live on the new bypass around Spotsylvania Courthouse. The "new road" has been open over a year and VDOT still has not put up the road name sign for Lake Anna Parkway. I complained to the contractor and the VDOT inspector. Getting deliveries from freight carriers is almost impossible!

--Nelson Gentry, Spotsylvania

County officials told VDOT that 911 signs have been installed throughout the road project. Those are the smaller signs posted on street corners. Next, VDOT will order and install the large overhead signs that attach to traffic signal mast arms, said Tina Bundy, VDOT spokeswoman, Fredericksburg District.

This should help out-of-town drivers spot your street.

Unfortunately, your delivery trouble might not be related to the signs. Lake Anna Parkway is not showing up yet on MapQuest, and any number of other online mapping/driving direction Web sites, Bundy said.

I've fielded questions about being left off MapQuest and GPS device maps before, and the fastest method to getting on them seems to be reporting the omission yourself.

Contact MapQuest by e-mailing the company with your street name and location. Go to MapQuest's Web site, [mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com), and click on "Help," then "Contact Us." Once there, you can report a missing street.

Most of these Web sites, including MapQuest, use a third party for its digital map information. When you report a missing street to Map-Quest, it sends your request to that company, which must verify the location.

The verification process can take several months. The good news is many of these mapping Web sites use the same third-party verification companies, so once your street appears on one Web site, it should start popping up everywhere.

Kelly Hannon is The Free Lance-Star's transportation reporter. If you have questions, send them to Getting There, c/o The Free Lance-Star, 616 Amelia St., Fredericksburg, Va. 22401; or you may fill out the Getting There form on the Web at: [fredericksburg.com](http://fredericksburg.com).

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