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Second public hearing on George Washington Toll Road Authority scheduled tonight before Fredericksburg City Council

June 22, 2010 12:35 am

City's possible toll panel roll aired

Tonight is the second public hearing on whether Fredericksburg should join the George Washington Regional Toll Road Authority.

The toll road authority, if activated, will start as a limited group with two members: Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania.

The authority would have seven members. Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania would each be represented by three elected officials-- City Council members and county supervisors--plus the Virginia Department of Transportation commissioner or his designee. Board members would serve three-year terms, except for the VDOT commissioner.

The toll road authority would have power to build highways in the State Route 3 corridor and charge tolls to drive on them.

Its first project under study would likely be a potential new Interstate 95 interchange near the Virginia Welcome Center, connecting to a four-lane toll road leading to Gordon Road in Spotsylvania.

The Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors voted last month to join the authority.

Fredericksburg City Council meets at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers at 715 Princess Anne Street.

--Kelly Hannon

Delays likely this week on U.S. 1

Lane closures could cause delays this week on U.S. 1 northbound and southbound in Fredericksburg.

Alternating, single lanes will close on U.S. 1 between College Avenue and Mary Washington Boulevard today through Friday.

One northbound and southbound lane of U.S. 1 will always be open.

The lanes are closing so workers can access a pedestrian bridge spanning U.S. 1. When the bridge opens this fall, it will link University of Mary Washington property on opposite sides of the highway.

Weather permitting, this will be the last week of U.S. 1 lane closures under the bridge, according to the Fredericksburg Department of Public Works.

--Kelly Hannon