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Toll-road authority selects new leaders

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By KELLY HANNON

A new government group that may oversee planning and construction of a new Interstate 95 interchange and toll road in the State Route 3 corridor has leaders.

Fredericksburg Vice Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw will chair the George Washington Toll Road Authority, and Spotsylvania Supervisor Hap Connors will be vice chair.

Board members agreed to firm up the group's bylaws and review a timeline for its first project at its second meeting in October.

The hourlong session was the first time members of the George Washington Toll Road Authority gathered.

The group was able to form after affirmative votes by the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors and Fredericksburg City Council to activate the group, which was authorized by the Virginia General Assembly in 2009. The governing bodies voted after holding two required public hearings in each locality.

The toll road authority board can plan and design projects only in the State Route 3 corridor. Expanding the group's scope would require a change in law.

The group's creation was sought as the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization spent several years studying a possible I-95 interchange near the Virginia Welcome Center and a Route 3 bypass from I-95 west to Gordon Road. The potential new interchange and bypass, plus improvements to Interstate 95, U.S. 17 and the Rappahannock River bridge, are expected to cost \$250 to \$300 million.

The toll road authority board has seven members. Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania are each represented by three elected officials--City Council members and county supervisors--plus a Virginia Department of Transportation designee.

Spotsylvania appointed supervisors Connors, Jerry Logan and Benjamin Pitts to serve as its representatives on the toll road board.

Fredericksburg's three representatives are Vice Mayor Greenlaw, Mayor Tom Tomzak and Councilman Brad Ellis.

The Virginia Department of Transportation has appointed VDOT Fredericksburg District Administrator Quintin Elliott as its board representative.

Lloyd Robinson, FAMPO's administrator, will serve as temporary director of the group to provide staffing.

Kelly Hannon: 540/374-5436

Email: khannon@freelancestar.com