

MEMBERS, NEWS, PRINCE WILLIAM

Connolly tours Woodbridge wastewater plant, promotes \$2.1 trillion spending bill

[Rick Horner](#) May 5, 2022 at 10:10am





Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) (on left) took a tour of a water treatment facility in Prince William County. [Photo: Rick Horner]

Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) took a tour of a water treatment facility in Prince William County to promote projects that would qualify for funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The congressman received a welcome at the H.L. Mooney Water Treatment Facility in Woodbridge. The visit was part of a tour that the congressman made across both Prince William and Fairfax counties.

Staff at the H.L. Mooney facility gave Connolly a tour, showing the congressman the various areas where water is treated and the removal of substances such as nitrogen and phosphorus so it can be returned to the Neabsco Creek the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

The H.L. Mooney facility has obtained funding for an upgrade that would cost \$100 million through a loan from the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund. According to Calvin Farr, general manager for the Prince William County Service Authority, the budget would be used to make improvements that would allow the facility to improve service in anticipation of an increase in population expected to occur in the next several years.

The Mooney facility first opened in 1979 under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water Act Grant Program. The facility has had two significant upgrades in 1997 and again in 2010. The facility serves residents of eastern Prince William County.

After the tour, a roundtable discussion was held where Connolly announced that the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs bill, signed by President Joe Biden in November 2021, contained \$2.1 trillion in spending. The bill contains \$550 billion earmarked for projects related to improving infrastructure.

The bill most significant public works bill passed since the Federal Highway Act of 1957, which Connolly supported.

“In passing this infrastructure bill, I want to emphasize that it's about more than just roads and bridges. Infrastructure is a very broad category, and one of the most critical infrastructures we have is wastewater treatment,” said Connolly. “So coming here highlights what we're doing in our community but also its needs; water is pretty essential to life.”

The tour is the last hurrah for Connolly in Prince William County. The recent redistricting of congressional districts has removed Prince William from Virginia's 11th Congressional District, which Connolly has represented since 2009.

“The loss of Congressman Connolly's representation in Congress is immense for Prince William County. He's always, over the last 14 years, represented us well and solidified us as a community,” said Prince William County Board of Supervisors Chair At-large Ann Wheeler. “We have other representatives that are wonderful also, like Congresswoman (Jennifer) Wexton, who does just as well, but seeing Congressman Connolly leave us, he will be hard to replace.”

Connolly will continue to represent neighborhoods in Fairfax County and Fairfax City. [He's up for re-election in November.](#)

The stop in Woodbridge is part of a week-long infrastructure tour for Connolly. Also on the stop list was a visit to the Stringfellow Park and Ride station in Centreville and the Virginia Railway Express m Burke Station. Both visits also included discussions on infrastructure-related issues such as roads, bridges, mass transit, and rail investments.

Correction: An earlier version of the article said that H.L. Mooney was seeking funding its upgrade, the facility has already obtained the funding.