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4-26-11

McDonnell to ask Pentagon for delay on BRAC

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Tuesday - 4/26/2011, 11:12am ET

WASHINGTON -- Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell was a guest Tuesday on WTOP's "Ask the Governor" program.

The governor forewarned about Base Realignment and Closure Act changes for military workers, and the resulting heavy impact on traffic.

"The Mark Center is going to be a problem," McDonnell said, adding he will send a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Tuesday spelling out his specific concerns, and offering potential solutions.

He suggested delaying any military staff changes until after the state can adequately improve the affected transportation situation. It will be up to 18 months before transportation workers can begin to make improvements, he said, due to having to conduct the federally mandated environmental impact study.

McDonnell also spelled out his intention to fight the \$330 million plan to build the Metro rail expansion to Dulles International Airport underground, which he described as an "aesthetic" option and "a significant problem."

The governor has already written to Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and D.C. Mayor Vince Gray to ask for their help in changing the decision by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority about the rail.

Listen to the full interview at right, and check out this WTOP live blog:

10:57 a.m., speak about the Republican presidential primary:

We're not even sure who all is in. This needs to shape up pretty quickly. I think a current or former governor would be the best for the position, like Tim Pawlenty.

Donald Trump has some good perspectives on Middle East policy and on the economy. And he's adding entertainment.

10:56 a.m., speak about Obama's citizenship:

The president is a citizen. The problem with the president is not with his birth certificate, it's with his policies.

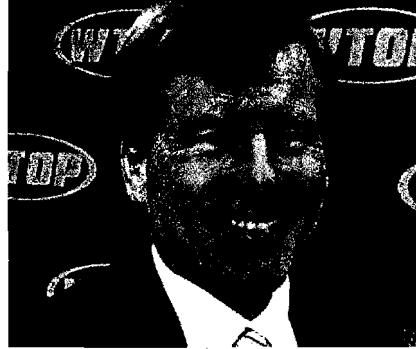
I think these are all distractions.

10:53 a.m., speak about gay couples adopting children:

People who can adopt are either single people, or married couples. Those are public policy decisions that have been in place for a very long time.

I support a single person, whether they are gay or straight, to adopt, but a two parent loving family is still the best way to raise a child.

I think the current law is working well. There are ample number of adoptive parents, except for special needs



(Paul D. Shinkman)

Ask the Governor

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10:23 a.m., speak about potential legal action against the BRAC moves:

I have not considered legal action.

I'm sending a letter to Secretary Gates this week spelling out our concerns and recommending solutions.

We're not going to be ready for the moves by Sept. 1.

10:15 a.m., speak about alleged flawed data to study BRAC impact on traffic:

We've made some improvements to I-95 to assist with increased traffic. But Mark Center will be a problem.

We have about \$20 million that the federal government has approved, and about \$80 million the state will contribute to the ramps around Braddock Road. But through federal approval, it's going to be 18 months plus before we can begin to start.

Perhaps the Defense Department can delay people moving there until we can get more transportation infrastructure improved.



(Paul D. Shinkman)

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10:13 a.m., speak about specific improvements through his transportation plan:

Part of the money is going to the infrastructure bank, that will be to give low-cost loans to local governments that have had local projects on hand.

There are about 900 projects state-wide that we think we can do.

10:04 a.m., speak about the airports authority vote to put the Dulles Metro track under ground:

The cost of the project is \$2.5 billion, but with overruns that may cost \$3.5 billion, with up to \$330 million more to put train underground.

This is just not a good deal for an "aesthetic" improvement.

We need to "change some votes" on the MWAA board. "I didn't really think they were going to vote this way."

The boards of Loudoun and Fairfax have said they cannot and will not put forward the additional money.

"I want to fight for the best fiscal interests of the people of Virginia, and this is not it."

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