



For Immediate Release

## **Telepathic Turtles Learn About Calvert County Transportation**

16 October 2009,

Calvert County Planner Ms. Patricia Haddon briefed the rookie FIRST Lego League (FLL) team “Telepathic Turtles” on Calvert County’s transportation goals and challenges. The “Telepathic Turtles” will investigate, study, and propose transportation solutions for their community. They plan to report out by late November.

Each year, the FLL competition, requires participating teams to demonstrate teamwork, robotic savvy, and community involvement. This year’s challenge: *Smart Move: Transforming Transportation*, led the Turtles to investigate transportation improvements for Calvert County.

In Friday’s meeting, Ms. Haddon shared her expertise with the six-member team, including the draft goals for the next revision of Calvert County’s Transportation Plan and some of the Transportation Challenges facing county residents every day. The project chosen by the Turtles should provide feasible alternatives to improve the safety or efficiency of county transportation.

Beyond the Transportation project, the “Telepathic Turtles” will independently design and program a robot to accomplish assigned tasks within the competition’s test track and time limits. They are looking forward to the qualifying round, planned for early December.

According to the Maryland FLL site:

“Every year, FLL works with experts in the field to create a Challenge that relates to a significant real-world issue. The end result is a two-part Challenge that requires research to complete The Project, and science and engineering to master the complex missions of The Robot Game. It’s a fun and exciting way to encourage kids’ minds.”

The “Telepathic Turtles” couldn’t agree more.

For more information:

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) <http://www.usfirst.org/>

Telepathic Turtles site: <http://www.telepathicturtles.org>

Calvert County Transportation Plans: <http://www.co.cal.md.us/business/planning/>

Maryland FLL: <http://www.mdfirst.org/fll/index.htm>

FIRST Lego League: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fll/>



Caption:

The Telepathic Turtles (left to right) Courtney Shelden, Daniel Shelden, Jacob Richmond, Nicholas Fingerle, and Matthew Koelbel discuss Calvert County transportation with Ms. Patricia Haddon, AICP, Calvert County Planning and Zoning. (not shown, Bradley Ditmars)

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