



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

June 13, 2024

The Honorable Christina Henderson, Chair
 National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)
 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
 Washington, DC 20002-4201

Re: NVTA Endorsement of Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) I-495 Southside Express Lanes (SEL) Project for Inclusion in Visualize 2050 Plan Update and FY2026-29 Transportation Improvement Program

Chair Henderson,

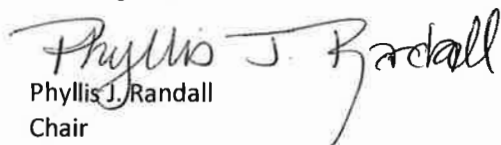
On behalf of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), I am pleased to express our full support for the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) I-495 Southside Express Lanes (SEL) Project for inclusion in Visualize 2050 Plan Update and FY2026-29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). NVTA fully supports advancing efforts to reduce congestion, improve accessibility, increase resiliency, and provide multimodal transportation choices. This project also supports all three NVTA Core Values of Equity, Safety, and Sustainability.

The project seeks to provide an Express Lanes connection on the eastern end of I-495 that currently does not have Express Lanes, beginning east of the Springfield Interchange and extending into Maryland across the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge. Alternative designs are being considered through ongoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis. VDOT has provided commitments in writing that fully support future rail transit on the bridge. Additionally, VDOT committed to incorporate appropriate terms in any future concessionaire contracts or agreements to this effect. VDOT is committed to continue its established practice of using a part of concessionaire funds to enhance multimodal options in this corridor.

Transit connection across Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge are a priority for NVTA as well, as reflected in the fact that High-Capacity Transit connection across the bridge is included in TransAction (ID 35), our multimodal long-range transportation plan for Northern Virginia.

Thank you for your consideration of Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) I-495 Southside Express Lanes (SEL) Project for inclusion in the Visualize 2050 Plan Update and FY2026-29 TIP.

Best Regards,


 Phyllis J. Randall
 Chair

cc: Stephen Birch, P.E., Commissioner of Highways, VDOT
 Mr. Bill Cuttler, P.E., District Engineer, VDOT-NoVA
 Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer, NVTA