NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COALITION

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Coalition Letter Urging the TPB to include New Potomac River Crossing for Future Analysis as Part of Its Long Range Transportation Plan Process

The undersigned members of the Northern Virginia Business Transportation Coalition urge the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) to combine a new Northern Potomac River Crossing (Initiative 3) with the Express Lane Initiative 1 and other projects for the purpose for further analysis.

Coalition members represent the vast majority of businesses and employees of Northern Virginia's private sector and non-profit workforce. The undersigned believe that a strong, efficient regional transportation network is essential to our region's future economic competiveness, security, and quality of life. We believe that unlocking National Capital Region's transportation grid requires a strategic regional approach and that a new Northern Potomac River Crossing between the area's most populous jurisdictions is essential.

The Northern Potomac River Crossing has long been envisioned and planned as part of a comprehensive regional multi-modal network to provide significant relief to the American Legion Bridge, Capital Beltway, US 15/ Point of Rocks Bridge, I-270 and other corridors. Other studies using the TPB's traffic model and land use assumptions have demonstrated that a new northern crossing does just that.

A <u>new Northern Potomac Crossing</u> has <u>never</u> been considered as <u>a standalone</u> project <u>yet</u> when the TPB Long Range Plan Task Force tested it as such, the new bridge carried <u>future volumes</u> similar to today's <u>Theodore Roosevelt Bridge</u>, <u>reduced significantly</u> regional <u>hours of delay</u>, <u>improved intraregional travel times</u> for Fairfax, Loudoun and Montgomery County residents and <u>access to</u> two of the region's most important gateways -- Washington Dulles International Airport and Thurgood Marshall, Baltimore Washington International Airport.

In short, the undersigned believe that achieving the best solutions to our transportation challenges requires a big picture perspective towards our region's transportation framework, that a new Northern Potomac River Crossing is an integral part of that framework and should be considered, as such, in future analysis of transportation investments of greatest regional significance.

Sincerely,

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John Boylan, President & CEO Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce Pat Dean, President

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