

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

Item #5

MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2010

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby
Director, Department of
Transportation Planning

RE: Letters Sent/Received Since the May 19th TPB Meeting

The attached letters were sent/received since the May 19th TPB meeting. The letters will be reviewed under Agenda #5 of the June 16th TPB agenda.

Attachments



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

WILLIAM J. HOWELL
SPEAKER

SPEAKER'S ROOM
STATE CAPITOL
POST OFFICE BOX 406
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

June 4, 2010

Mr. David Robertson, Executive Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Robertson:

I understand there is an open seat on the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board which was held by former delegate Margaret Vanderhye. As Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, I wish to have Delegate Barbara J. Comstock appointed to this Board.

Delegate Comstock can be reached by telephone at 703/356-9124; or emailed at delcomstock@house.virginia.gov; or correspondence mailed to Post Office Box 6156, McLean, Virginia 22106.

Yours truly,

William J. Howell

cc: The Honorable Charles J. Colgan
The Honorable Thomas D. Rust
The Honorable Barbara J. Comstock
The Honorable David Snyder, Chairman TPB

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COALITION

7600 COLSHIRE DRIVE · SUITE 215 · MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102 · 703/883-1830 · FAX 703/883-1850

May 28, 2010

The Honorable David Snyder, Chairman
Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capital Street, NE Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Snyder:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that a group of Northern Virginia organizations representing businesses employing most of Northern Virginia's private sector workforce has requested that the Arlington County Board drop its I-95/I-395 HOT Lanes lawsuit and work with the Commonwealth of Virginia to advance this important project. A copy of the Coalition's letter is attached.

As you know, I-95 in Northern Virginia is one of the nation's most congested corridors. It's also a major evacuation route for the National Capital Region.

Traffic volumes currently average about 250,000 per day. Imminent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) relocations will make conditions dramatically worse.

No federal or state dollars are available or likely in the foreseeable future to improve this project.

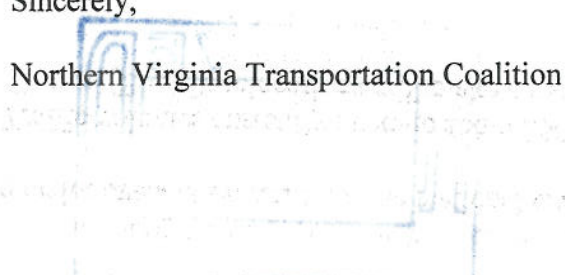
The I-95/I-395 HOT Lanes project is an innovative, multi-modal approach that will dramatically improve the region's public transit network. By increasing traffic throughput capacity, it also will keep traffic out of adjacent neighborhoods.

Coalition members believe the Arlington County Board's lawsuit lacks merit and that its withdrawal is in the best interests of the people of this area.

Completion of the I-95/I-395 is critical to fulfillment of National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) regional multi-modal vision. The Coalition urges TPB members to express their support for this important project and join with us in urging the Arlington County Board to drop its legal action.

Sincerely,

Northern Virginia Transportation Coalition



NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COALITION

7600 COLSHIRE DRIVE · SUITE 215 · MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102 · 703/883-1830 · FAX 703/883-1850

May 28, 2010

The Honorable Jay Fisetto, Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Chairman Fisetto:

The undersigned request that the Arlington County Board withdraw its I-95/I-395 HOT Lanes project lawsuit and work with the Commonwealth of Virginia to advance this critical regional project.

I-95/I-395 is a major gateway to the nation's capital, part of the east coast's primary north-south corridor, and a major regional multi-modal facility and evacuation route. Severe weekday and weekend congestion is commonplace.

More than 250,000 vehicles pass daily through the Springfield Interchange. By 2030 that number is projected to exceed 300,000.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) re-locations will bring 6,500 new workers to Mark Center and 14,000 to the EPG and Fort Belvoir Main Post in the next year. The corridor serves five major military sites.

The existing HOV system is growing increasingly congested and less reliable and Arlington County has voted previously to include the HOT Lanes project in the region's plan.

No federal or state dollars to improve this facility are currently available or likely for the foreseeable future. Absent major improvements, the impact on the hundreds of thousands of travelers that depend upon this corridor daily as well as those who live in adjacent Arlington communities will be severe.

A private sector consortium has stepped forward with a proposal to invest upwards of \$1 billion in private equity and debt to construct a 37-mile Express Bus/HOV/Toll facility in the median of the corridor from Stafford County to Eads Street near the Pentagon. The facility will provide free travel for transit and carpool vehicles and variable toll use for single occupant vehicles. In addition to new lanes and access ramps, the proposal provides substantial funding for the purchase and operation of new buses and routes, 3,000 satellite parking spaces and transportation management programs. When complete, the facility will offer seamless travel at faster, more predictable speeds in the I-95/I-395 corridor as well as to Tysons Corner via the I-495 HOT Lanes facility. Traffic diverted to the new facility will create additional space and improve travel speeds for those using the conventional lanes. The HOV lanes will operate better than they do today and support increases in carpooling and buses.

The importance of the upgrading and extension of the I-95 HOV system for regional evacuation purposes cannot be overstated.

The primary obstacle to advancing this innovative, multi-modal improvement is the Arlington County Board's lawsuit that precludes the project from securing any private or public sector funding. Common sense dictates that a project constructed within the median of an existing 10-lane interstate highway would not require a full Environmental Impact Statement. Charges that the Obama administration and Governor Tim Kaine's Secretary of Transportation acted with the "implicit intent" to harm minority and vulnerable populations and benefit predominantly Caucasian Virginians are not credible and frankly an embarrassment to this region.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is on record as expressing its willingness to re-examine design and access issues, but the Commonwealth cannot re-engage until the legal action goes away.

cc: The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Commonwealth Transportation Board Members
Northern Virginia General Assembly Delegation

The Honorable Sean T. Connaughton
Northern Virginia Congressional Delegation
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Members

Tina Leone, President & CEO
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

W. Shaun Pharr, Sr. VP of Government Affairs
Apartment and Office Building
Association of Metropolitan Washington

Richard V. Doud, Jr., President
Arlington Chamber of Commerce

Eileen D. Curtis, President & CEO
Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce

Stuart Mendlesohn, Chairman
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce

Mark S. Ingrao, President & CEO
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce

Nancy-jo Manney, Executive Director
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

James C. Dinegar, President & CEO
Greater Washington Board of Trade

Laszlo (Les) Eszenyi, Executive Director
Heavy Construction Contractors Association

Anthony Howard, President & CEO
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce

Martha D. Marks, President
NAIOP - Northern Virginia Chapter
Commercial Real Estate Development Assoc.

Christine M. Todd, CEO
Northern Virginia Association of Realtors®

Vincent N. Butler, President
Northern Virginia Building Industry Assoc.

Robert O. Chase, President
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance

Deborah L. Jones, President
Prince William County-Greater Manassas
Chamber of Commerce

Laurie C. Wieder, President
Prince William Regional
Chamber of Commerce

Miles Friedman, President
Quantico/Belvoir Regional Business Alliance

Keith S. Turner, President & Chairman
Tysons Transportation Association

Diane Poldy, President
Vienna Tysons Regional
Chamber of Commerce

Leo Schefer, President
Washington Airports Task Force