

**Statement of Robert O. Chase
To the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
February 16, 2011**

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance supports conducting the air quality conformity analyses necessary to amend and include the I-95 HOT Lanes project in the 2010 CLRP.

While lacking the overall multi-modal benefits of the original project, the revised facility is still a major plus for our region.

Rather than empower wealthy Caucasians and harm minorities as some have alleged, the original and proposed new facility actually benefit and offer better transit, carpooling and SOV choices to area residents of all incomes, races and backgrounds.

Latest US census data shows that in the past decade nearly 4,500 African Americans and Hispanics left Arlington while the African American and Hispanic populations in Stafford, and Spotsylvania Counties increased by more than 18,000 and 14,000 respectively.

Seeking to live in communities with affordable housing, perhaps a yard with a few trees, good schools and safe neighborhoods is the American dream and why people continue to come to this country and this area.

Today far more area residents and taxpayers live outside than inside the Beltway and this disparity will continue to increase. Persons living outside and beyond the Beltway deserve transportation choices and systems that work every bit as much as those living in a high-rise above a bistro.

The proposed HOT Lane project will offer more choices and save more time for tens of thousands of people in our region. By providing better access to regional activity centers the project promotes regional prosperity. By providing new capacity it also will save lives in the event of a homeland security emergency.

This CLRP amendment also includes a ramp to Seminary Road and the Mark Center that was part of the original HOT Lanes proposal but removed due to local opposition. Absent such opposition and other obstacles that ramp would be much closer to opening than is now the case.

In short, the proposed HOV/Transit/HOT Lanes facility offers many important travel, economic, quality of life and homeland security benefits.

It deserves to be incorporated in the region's CLRP.