



Loudoun County, Virginia

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Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

1 Harrison Street, S.E., MSC #01, 5th Floor, P.O. Box 7000, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000

May 10, 2018

Dear Chairman Nohe and Commissioners,

First, I would like to thank you for your work on behalf of our great Commonwealth and for the opportunity to comment on new projects for the NVT A Secondary Six Year Program.

I am writing you to express my support for the projects that have been submitted by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. As the fastest growing county in Virginia, we have very substantial transportation needs that must be addressed. In addition to the population growth, Loudoun is also the county with the greatest economic development in the Commonwealth. Loudoun's economic development is a key revenue driver for the State that will be choked off, if we do not address the transportation needs.

While all our projects are important, I would like to focus my comments on one project; the "Route 15 Bypass Widening: Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road." This section of the Route 15 corridor from Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road (VA 661) in its current condition is for the most part a two-lane country road designed to carry approximately 12,000 cars per day. Today this section of the road is currently averaging approximately 26,000 cars per day. Queuing along this 14-mile corridor during peak hours backs up all the way to the Maryland State line during the morning peak hours and down to Leesburg in the evening peak hours. As you may be aware, Route 15 is a victim of regional congestion given the significant amount of traffic coming into Loudoun County from Maryland and West Virginia. Much of this traffic is commuters driving to the regional technology corridors between Dulles Airport and Tyson's Corner in Loudoun and Fairfax. Our residents battle one to two hours of travel during these peak times, longer if there is an accident. Congestion relief is desperately needed for our residents who live along the Route 15 corridor. Safety is a major concern as well, as we have had 3 fatalities and countless traffic accidents on this road over the past 20 months.

This is the top transportation priority for my office and for the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors as well as the Route 15 project was submitted by our Board as the #1 of 3 priority projects for the County. We have invested a significant amount of money in our public outreach effort over the past year establishing a 20-person Stakeholder Group comprised of community groups and residents along the corridor. Our 5th Stakeholder meeting was held earlier this week. Our public outreach has also been significant. We have conducted no less than 6 public outreach meetings and open houses soliciting public input which is reflected in the proposed concepts for the project. This outreach effort has generated almost 5000 comments and input from roughly 3000 people. That input generated a 97% support to "improve the Route 15 corridor from its current condition" and a 95% support for "congestion relief." A timeline of our efforts and results of our public input can be found on our project website: www.loudoun.gov/route15.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital project and if you have any questions, please contact me at geary.higgins@loudoun.gov.

Best Regards,

Geary M. Higgins
Board of Supervisors – Catoctin District
Loudoun County, Virginia

Cc: Ms. Monica Backmon, Executive Director NVT A