

PURPOSE AND NEED

Reduce congestion – Regional travel demand forecasting shows increased traffic volumes and travel demands as population and employment continue to grow within the region;

Provide additional travel choices – Access to high-occupancy travel modes encourages drivers to choose alternatives to single-occupancy travel as well as provide an option to single-occupancy drivers to use the Express Lanes and free up capacity on the general purpose lanes; and

Improve travel reliability – Duration and extent of congestion is expected to increase along with population and employment growth resulting in the need for commuters to spend additional time traveling to work.



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and in accordance with FHWA regulations, VDOT is preparing an Environmental Assessment to analyze and document the potential social, economic, and environmental effects associated with the proposed transportation improvements for a Build and No-Build scenario of the extension of express lanes along I-495 to the American Legion Bridge.

Technical Studies will include:

- Air Quality Analysis
- Alternative Analysis
- Hazardous Materials
- Historic Resources Documentation
- Traffic Analysis
- Indirect and Cumulative Effects Analysis
- Natural Resources Documentation
- Noise Analysis
- Socioeconomic and Land Use Analysis