



VDOT Northern Virginia District Office  
Attn: Abi Lerner, P.E.  
4975 Alliance Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

October 8, 2020

**RE: 495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Project**

Dear Mr. Lerner,

Representing more than 300 companies and tens of thousands of employees, Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) is dedicated to serving the transportation construction interests in the Commonwealth – seeking solutions which benefit the communities in which we work and live.

In Northern Virginia, traffic congestion impacts everyone's quality of life on a daily basis more so than any other part of the Commonwealth. Utilizing multiple tools is necessary to address this need. One near term solution is the proposed 495 NEXT – extension of the 495 Express Lanes north.

We write to express our support for the extension of the 495 Express Lanes north to the George Washington Memorial Parkway. This effort will allow transit and carpoolers to bypass congestion with a faster toll free trip. This provides an option for faster, more reliable travel that will reduce users and non-users commuting time and cut down on cut-through traffic that now impacts local neighborhoods. We believe 495 Express Lanes will:

1. Set the stage for the Capital Beltway Accord project – the vital rebuild of the American Legion Bridge and extension of the Express Lanes into Maryland
2. Provide an option for faster, more reliable travel – reducing commuting times by 50% during rush hour for those who choose to use the Express Lanes
3. Allow transit and carpools to bypass congestion with a faster toll free experience
4. Improve safety on 495 by reducing the number of accidents by 20%

The benefits outside of traffic congestion relief are also significant. This project's 3-mile shared use path will connect to local trails and greatly enhance bicycle and pedestrian travel. The economic impact will continue to provide thousands of jobs at all levels of construction design and execution.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Dixon".

Gordon Dixon  
Executive Vice President