



PRINCE WILLIAM  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

March 11, 2020

9720 Capital Court ▪ Suite 203 ▪ Manassas, VA 20110 ▪ 703.368.6600

Abi Lerner, PE  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
4975 Alliance Drive  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Dear Mr. Abi:

On behalf of the Prince William Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to provide comments on the I-495 NEXT project. As you know, the 495 and 95 Express Lanes have been very successful in Northern Virginia and reduced commute times for thousands of Prince William County residents along the I-95 corridor.

It is important that we continue to develop a robust network of express lanes, and the Interstate 495 NEXT project is an important one for the Northern Virginia region. We encourage the Commonwealth to advance bold solutions like 495 NEXT. The project not only provides near term congestion relief and safety improvements to commuters on the Capital Beltway, but also lays the groundwork for a future connection to Maryland's Traffic Relief Plan. By connecting the 495 Express Lanes to the Dulles Toll Road and George Washington Memorial Parkway, motorists who choose the Express Lanes will see their commute times halved, allowing them to spend more time with their families.

Another important reason to support the 495 NEXT project is that it will allow the Commonwealth to continue to grow its economy while providing substantial quality of life improvements to residents at zero cost to taxpayers. Additionally, the project will add thousands of jobs to the Commonwealth and generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity. This is an important project to maintaining the region's competitiveness, and must be advanced to remedy regional congestion.

Finally, the 495 NEXT project will provide further enhance transportation choices such as HOV service and transit along the corridor. This is important as our region continues to look to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the amount of cars on the roads.

The Prince William Chamber of Commerce endorses the I-495 NEXT project because it is critical for the Northern Virginia region. We encourage the approval of this project and hope the Commonwealth will move forward without delay. By approving this project, the Commonwealth could finally move forward with a project that has been delayed for many years.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Jones, President & CEO  
Prince William Chamber of Commerce