



333 N. Fairfax Street
Suite 302
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.549.1000

October 12, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce in strong support of the 495 NEXT project that will extend the Express Lanes north to the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce represents more than 700 member businesses ranging from one of a kind small businesses to leading global organizations.

Our mission is to ensure a climate that grows and strengthens business in Alexandria. The 495 NEXT project will support that critical mission, helping create tens of thousands of jobs for the region and boosting economic development by an estimated \$880 million dollars. In addition, the congestion relief that will come along with this project will allow greater access to many of our businesses and move additional goods throughout the region. It also removes one more barrier from people trying to reach the City of Alexandria from Northern Fairfax.

This project is good for all who travel the I-495 corridor. The project will reduce the number of accidents in this area by 20%, protecting both people and property. This reduction in accidents will also reduce the traffic delays that come along with them.

The Express Lanes are a proven way to move more people through a corridor with less vehicles. The HOV lanes that were created through the first 495 Express Lanes project have been a tremendous success, growing more than 250% since their first year in operation. Bus trips have also grown exponentially in this corridor since the lanes inception. These benefits provide equity for everyone in the region, giving all of us an opportunity to skip the congestion at no extra cost. Moving more people in fewer vehicles improves our environment and air quality, which in turn provides a better quality of life for everyone.

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce seeks to leverage the voices of our business community to advance solutions that will enhance the business climate in the city and region. We are pleased to lend our voice to this critical project and recommend that it move forward quickly.

Thank you,

Dave Millard
2020 Chair of the Board
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

Joe Haggerty
President & CEO
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce