



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 2000

Stephen Brich
Commissioner

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 530
Fairfax, VA 22035-0079

Dear Chairman McKay,

On behalf of Secretary Valentine and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), I offer my appreciation to you and the County for providing two comprehensive letters on December 3, 2020 regarding the I-495 Northern Extension Project's Environmental Assessment and Design. Since the October 2020 Public Hearing on this project, and after receiving comments from key stakeholders, neighborhood and community groups, VDOT staff have been actively working with the community and Fairfax County staff to identify solutions.

Additionally, the Commonwealth has been very encouraged by Maryland's progress on their I-270/I-495 Traffic Relief Program. Maryland recently announced their Preferred Alternative, which includes 2 Managed Lanes in each direction on I-495 allowing HOV-3 vehicles to use these managed lanes for free and a new bicycle and pedestrian connection across the American Legion Memorial Bridge. Additionally, on February 19, 2021, Maryland announced the selection of their private development partner. The Commonwealth continues to work closely with Maryland's team to ensure a seamless, regional approach to providing managed lanes in the Washington-Metropolitan region. All of this is welcome news as both states work collaboratively to address the transportation needs in this corridor.

I am pleased with the significant progress on many key issues that has resulted from joint our coordination efforts. Commitments have been made by VDOT, as well as our private development partner, to address many of the items raised in the County's letters. I want to thank Fairfax County staff for their tremendous efforts in working with VDOT to resolve these items. There are a few remaining items that VDOT and County staff continue to collaborate on to finalize. As Secretary Valentine shared with you in her November 30, 2020 letter, I also want to take this opportunity to reiterate that the Commonwealth continues to be committed to providing dedicated, ongoing support for transit services along this corridor as part of the 495 NEXT project.

The issues identified by Fairfax County are important to VDOT, and will continue to be an important part of the dialog as we work together to solve one of the Washington Metropolitan area's most congested transportation links. Through the continued collaboration among the staff of VDOT and Fairfax County, I am confident that a multi-modal transportation solution can be put in place, which will improve travel and make a positive impact on our Commonwealth.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert H. Cary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert H. Cary, PE, LS
Chief Deputy Commissioner

Cc: Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation
Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation
John Lawson, Deputy Secretary of Transportation
Stephen Brich, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County
Martha Coello, Fairfax County
Helen Cuervo, District Administrator Northern Virginia, Virginia Department of Transportation