

McLean Citizens Association



The Voice of McLean for Over 100 Years

P.O. Box 273 – McLean, VA 22101

September 10, 2020

The Honorable Shannon Valentine
Secretary of Transportation
Commonwealth of Virginia
1401 E Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: VDOT 495 NEXT

Dear Secretary Valentine:

Enclosed on behalf of the McLean Citizens Association (“MCA”) is a copy of a resolution on 495 NEXT that was adopted by our board on September 2, 2020. The MCA is a volunteer, non-governmental organization that has served since 1914 as an unofficial town council for the residents of the McLean Area, which has no governmental structure of its own. The MCA has provided a forum for McLean area residents to have a voice in resolving community problems and county-wide issues affecting the area.

Our resolution conditionally supports the 495 NEXT project, as described in the Environmental Assessment. We continue our long-standing endorsement for capacity relief at the American Legion Memorial Bridge and connecting roadways to reduce neighborhood cut-through traffic.

While we support the project, we have important concerns in two areas: financial and environmental. While these concerns are set forth in detail in the resolution, some are worth mentioning in this letter.

- VDOT should not proceed to sign final agreements or begin construction work until the longer-term aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic on transportation are understood;
- VDOT and Transurban should implement a comprehensive stormwater management plan for the entire study area, including adjacent private properties, to mitigate the impact of stormwater runoff from the completed project on those properties, the adjacent streams, and the Potomac River;
- VDOT should provide timely and complete notices of any construction activity that impacts private and public property in the McLean area;
- There should be an agreement to mitigate the loss of 118 acres of generally mature trees;
- Effort should be made to minimize the footprint of Scott’s Run Nature Preserve and to avoid temporary use of parkland during construction, using existing paved areas when possible; and
- VDOT should undertake natural resource inventories and ecological surveys in areas potentially affected by the project, including within the Preserve, and provide a cash grant to Fairfax County Park Authority for removal of invasive plants and for the planting of new native plants at the Preserve.

The MCA looks forward to working with VDOT to provide input to this important transportation project and to address important community concerns.

Respectfully,

Robert H Jackson, President
David Wuehrmann, Chair, Transportation Committee