



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
P.O. Box 178 - City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia 22313**

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703.746.4025

June 16, 2022

Nick Nies, AICP
VDOT 495 Southside Express Lanes Study Project Manager
9030 Stony Point Parkway, Suite 220
Richmond, VA 23235

Dear Mr. Nies,

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) I-495 Southside Express Lane Study, to attend the public information meetings held in May, and to provide input on the information available so far.

The City of Alexandria (the City) is following this study closely to understand the potential impacts to our community. It is of utmost importance to the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) that any alternatives minimize adverse effects on our residents, businesses, and visitors such as increased noise or cut-through traffic on our local roads. We also hope that proposed alternatives are consistent with the goals of the City's Environmental Action Plan 2040 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled in the City.

The City appreciates that VDOT has solicited information on our relevant plan and policy documents, including the Alexandria Mobility Plan, which emphasizes the importance of creating transportation choices to allow community members travel options. As such, the City is very interested in how this study and subsequent projects will impact transportation choices. We want to underscore the importance of robust coordination with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit's (DPRRT's) I-495 Southside Capital Beltway Transit and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study, and we look forward to an analysis of how the Express Lane alternatives may impact current and future transit options and other alternative transportation modes.


Specifically, the City would like additional information on how space set-aside on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge for future rail may be impacted. The City would like to see the opportunity for future rail on the bridge preserved. Additionally, the City hopes that VDOT and DPRT will focus on how the alternatives coming out of these studies could provide connections to Metrorail and enhance bus operations in the region, particularly as the City is supporting the only regular transit line on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge at the time, the NH2 bus line between Alexandria and National Harbor.

The Alexandria Mobility Plan also presents a vision for pedestrian and bicycle improvements in the City, and staff are eager to see how VDOT will consider regional pedestrian and bicycle improvements consistent with this vision as alternatives are developed.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this study and providing additional feedback as more information on the potential alternatives become available. We appreciate you taking the time to present to the Alexandria Transportation Commission on this study on June 15, and we hope you can return later this year to present on the proposed alternatives.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Yon Lambert (Jun 16, 2022 12:59 EDT)

Yon Lambert, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services

cc: James Parajon, City Manager
Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager
Hillary Orr, Deputy Director, T&ES
Christopher Ziemann, Division Chief, Transportation Planning, T&ES
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I-495 Express Lane Study - Alexandria Letter June 2022

Final Audit Report

2022-06-16

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