



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Sean T. Connaughton
Secretary of Transportation

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Subject: Mark Center Transportation Funding

Dear Secretary Gates:

Thank you for the February 1, 2011 Department of Defense (DoD) letter requesting priority funding for a direct High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) access ramp from I-395 to Seminary Road. Ms. Robyn's letter was clear this project is the highest priority road project in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the DoD. I am pleased to report Governor McDonnell has agreed to fund your request.

Funding for the HOV ramp will be included in the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) FY 12-17 Six Year Improvement Program. We are pleased to continue partnering with DoD to resolve transportation issues associated with impacts of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure. With the funding of this ramp, VDOT has now invested over \$430 million in road improvement projects that directly benefit DoD employees.

Construction of the HOV ramp is critical in helping DoD encourage its employees to use transit and form car and van pools in order to meet DoD's aggressive trip reduction goals. The package of short- and mid-term improvements developed by VDOT and supported by the Alexandria City Council are equally important in resolving transportation congestion on I-395 and Seminary Road. We expect all 3,750 parking spaces at the BRAC facility at Mark Center to be fully utilized. The short- and mid-term improvements are designed to address traffic congestion associated with single occupancy vehicles generated by BRAC Mark Center development.

It is my understanding this package of improvements has been certified by the Defense Access Road Program as being eligible for DoD funding. It is critical these improvements be funded by DoD in order to mitigate the impact of single occupancy vehicles bound for Mark Center. Therefore, I am requesting DoD commit, as soon as

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The Honorable Robert M. Gates

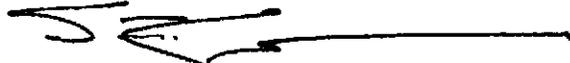
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possible, funding to design and construct these improvements in concert with VDOT's commitment to fund and construct the I-395 HOV ramp.

Please be assured the Governor and I will continue to advance the partnership between the Commonwealth and the Department of Defense. Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean T. Connaughton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sean T. Connaughton

SC:tf

cc: The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
The Honorable Dorothy Robyn, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
Terri Suit, Assistant to the Governor
The Honorable Tom Davis, Co-Chair Commission on Military Facilities
Gregory Whirley, VDOT Commissioner
Garrett Moore, VDOT NOVA District Administrator
Tom Fahrney, VDOT Commonwealth BRAC Coordinator