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ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

GREGORY A. WHIRLEY
COMMISSIONER

August 9, 2011

Mr. Abi Lerner, Deputy Director
City of Alexandria
Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
301 King St., Room 4100
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE: Route Number: 395
Project Number: 0095-100-722, P101
UPC: 96261
Town/City/County: City of Alexandria
iPM Project Description: I-395 HOV Ramp @ Seminary Road

Dear Mr. Lerner:

The Virginia Department of Transportation is developing plans to construct an High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)/Transit ramp at the I-395/Seminary Road interchange for the purpose of providing adequate transit vehicle and HOV access to the Mark Center and nearby employment centers and to relieve forecasted peak traffic congestion at specific interchange ramps. The scope of this project consists of a proposed reversible single-lane HOV ramp extending from the I-395 HOV lanes to the third level interchange bridge carrying Seminary Road over I-395. The project also will include the widening of the Seminary Road bridge and approaches on the third level bridge along Seminary Road as well as the introduction of a traffic signal at the intersection where the HOV ramp ties to the widened bridge. In conjunction with the referenced project, a study will be conducted to evaluate turning movements from the HOV ramp onto Seminary. Additionally, the pedestrian bridges will be evaluated to determine if improvements are necessary.

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other Federal and state laws and regulations, environmental studies assessing the project's potential impacts will be documented in an Environmental Assessment for this project.

This project is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f; 36 CFR 800.2(c)(3)), which entitles the City of Alexandria to participate in

consultation regarding the potential effects of the project on historic properties (typically historic buildings and districts; archaeological sites; battlefields). Information about Section 106 can be found at http://www.achp.gov/usersguide.html. Please let the Department know if the City of Alexandria has any information or concerns about historic properties potentially affected by this project, and if you wish to participate further in consultation to identify historic properties; assess project effects; and avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Please designate a Section 106 point of contact for the City.

We would appreciate your written comments regarding the project on the enclosed questionnaire. Please feel free to include any additional comments that may be appropriate. To avoid project delays, we would appreciate receiving your comments no later than September 15, 2011.

A map of the proposed project location has been included for your reference. Should you require additional information or have questions about the project, please contact me at (703) 259-2764. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert Iosco
Environmental Program Manager
VDOT NOVA District

cc: Tom Fahrney, VDOT BRAC Coordinator
Sid Siddiqui, VDOT NOVA District L&D
John Muse, VDOT NOVA District Environmental

Enclosures

Route Number: 395

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you anticipate or are you aware of any organized opposition to the proposed project?

2. Are you aware of any disproportionately high and adverse effects to minorities or low income populations that could result from this project?

3. Will the project disrupt a community or its planned development?

4. Is the project consistent with community goals, such as proposed land use?

5. What is the existing and proposed zoning for this area?

6. Has the project area been included in any county historical research?

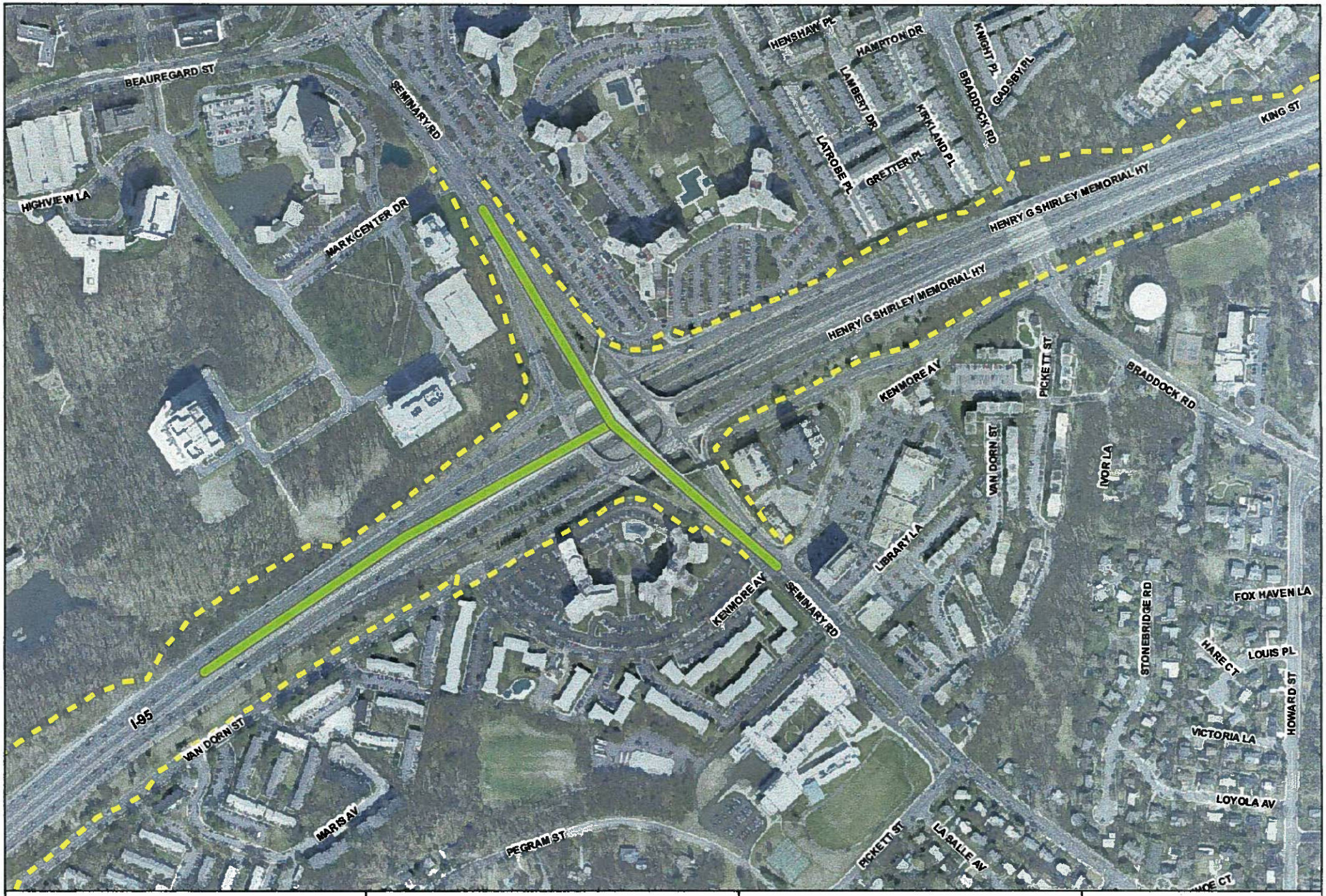
7. Is the proposed project consistent with community goals, such as proposed land use?

8. Will the proposed project be beneficial to the City of Alexandria?

Please feel free to make any additional comments.

_____ _____

[Date] **[Signature of official with jurisdiction]**



VDOT

I-395 HOV Ramp at Seminary Road
Draft Environmental Assessment
Figure 1: Project Location Map

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Legend

VDOT ROW

Project Location

N W E S

0 250 500 Feet