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William D. Euille
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December 9, 2011

The Honorable Sean T. Connaughton
Secretary, Virginia Department of Transportation
Office of the Governor
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Secretary Connaughton:

The City of Alexandria greatly appreciates your efforts in securing the funding being provided by the Commonwealth for the HOV/Transit Ramp at I-395 and Seminary Road. We recently learned that at the same time this project will be built, VDOT will also be procuring the design and construction of the auxiliary lane on northbound I-395 connecting the Duke Street on-ramp and the Seminary Road off-ramp.

In order to construct that additional lane, the I-395 Bridge over Sanger Avenue will need to be widened in part. Because of this needed modification to the Sanger Avenue Bridge, the City of Alexandria is requesting that you direct VDOT staff to enter into discussions with the City about the possibility that the entire Sanger Avenue Bridge be reconstructed with VDOT funds to provide a wider Sanger Avenue under I-395 capable of accommodating dedicated transit lanes for the City of Alexandria's funded Van Dorn/Beauregard Transitway Project. Because of the restricted width of the current tunnel underneath the bridge, which only exists in this section of Sanger Avenue along the entire proposed transitway route, the current transitway design will require buses when entering this tunnel to use the general purpose lanes and run in mixed traffic on Sanger Avenue. Dedicated transit only lanes are planned on much of the rest of this transit route. The provision of dedicated transit lanes on Sanger Avenue would greatly enhance the efficiency of transit vehicles, helping to reduce the numbers of Single Occupant Vehicles by making dedicated transit a better travel option.

We would appreciate your consideration of discussing and funding this I-395 bridge modification that would certainly enhance transit efficiencies along the I-395 corridor.

Sincerely,

William D. Euille
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Members of City Council
Members, High Capacity Corridor Work Group
Bruce Johnson, Acting City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Michele Evans, Deputy City Manager
Richard J Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, T&ES
Abi Lerner, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES
Tom Fahrney, VDOT Statewide BRAC Coordinator
John Lynch, Chief Construction Engineer for VaMegaProjects
David Grover, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner