

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 27, 2011

The Honorable Leon Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1300 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta:

We write today to express our concern that the transportation management plan (TMP) for Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) recommendation #133 will not prevent failing levels of service given the aggressive occupation schedule for the Mark Center complex in Alexandria, Virginia. Specifically, we are concerned that the occupation plan presented by the Department of Defense (DOD) for the Mark Center will relocate all 6,400 personnel prior to the completion of short- and mid-term transportation improvements, causing unacceptable congestion to civilian roadways, including I-395.

As you may know, BRAC #133 will relocate approximately 6,400 DOD personnel from leased office space accessible by public transit to the Mark Center, which is not proximate to any Metro station and located adjacent to I-395. According to traffic analyses produced by the Department of the Army, the DOD Inspector General, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and others, a relocation of this magnitude will cause failing levels of service to local roadways, including I-395, without significant transportation improvements.

To its credit, the DOD has reprogrammed \$20 million for transportation improvements in the immediate vicinity of the Mark Center on the basis that “the existing roadway capacities around the Mark Center development will be insufficient to accommodate the influx of new traffic in connection with the BRAC recommendation.” While the transportation improvements paid for by the Department will not be completed until at least December 2013, the Department’s current occupation plan for the Mark Center will relocate 5,000 personnel to the BRAC site by December 2011, two full years before the transportation improvements will be completed, with the remaining personnel relocated in 2012.

With this in mind, we are concerned that the Department’s occupation plan is not being adequately coordinated with appropriate transportation improvements and mitigation measures. In particular, we were disappointed to learn that the DOD has decided to reduce the number of shuttle routes from Metro to the Mark Center from five to four, in clear contravention of the Department’s July 2010 Final TMP.

As a result, we request that the Department:

- Provide a list of any changes, and the justification for such changes, that have been made to the July 2010 BRAC #133 Transportation Management Plan.

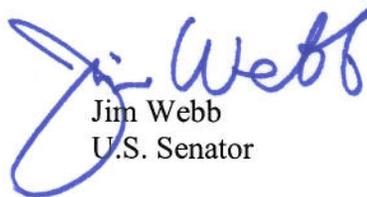
- Brief our offices in full detail on the measures the Department will take to reduce traffic congestion around the Mark Center should DOD-generated traffic produce failing levels of service to the intersections surrounding the BRAC site. We believe the DOD should consider using mandatory traffic-mitigation measures, such as alternative work schedules and telecommuting, to avoid failing levels of service at key intersections.
- Publish its impact measurements of the increased traffic volume at 30-day intervals for full public review.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests and we hope the Department will remain a willing partner as it fully implements BRAC #133.

Sincerely,



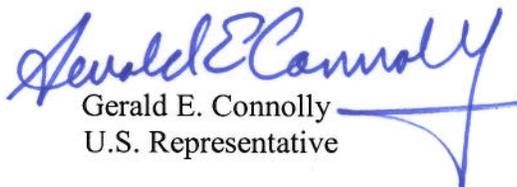
James P. Moran  
U.S. Representative



Jim Webb  
U.S. Senator



Mark Warner  
U.S. Senator



Gerald E. Connolly  
U.S. Representative