COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.
Secretary of Transportation

August 31, 2016

The Honorable Sharon Bulova
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy., Ste. 530
Fairfax, VA 22035

The Honorable Allison Silberberg
Alexandria City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The Honorable Libby Garvey
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chairman Bulova, Mayor Silberberg, and Chair Garvey:

I am writing to continue discussions related to the 395 Express Lanes extension project and follow up on my letter dated November 20, 2015.

The Commonwealth has taken many steps to help improve travel along this corridor. Earlier this year, the United States Department of Transportation notified the Commonwealth that it intends to award a FASTLANE grant of $165 million to help improve travel along this corridor through the Atlantic Gateway proposal. The components of the Atlantic Gateway project include:

- 395 Express Lanes extension, including upgrades for transit and HOV access to the Pentagon;
- Reinvestment of toll revenues throughout the corridor to support capital and operating needs of new transit service and transportation demand management strategies;
- Long Bridge, phase I – construction of a fourth track from Alexandria to Potomac River;
- Construction of 8 miles of third track to the 95 rail corridor from Springfield south;
- New capacity for additional Virginia Railway Express trains upon completion of the rail capacity;
- 95 Express Lanes extension from Garrisonville to Fredericksburg;

- Construction of a southbound collector-distributor bridge on I-95 from Route 17 to Route 3; and
- New commuter park-n-ride lots, truck parking, technology upgrades, and pavement markings to help support autonomous vehicles.

I am writing today to provide more details on the reinvestment of toll revenues to support new and expanded transit and transportation demand management (TDM) throughout the I-95/I-395 corridor. The Commonwealth will commit to provide at least $15 million annually for these purposes starting with the commencement of tolling on this facility. In addition, the Commonwealth will ensure that some portion of any revenue sharing of excess revenues received by the Department of Transportation will be provided for transit and TDM purposes on this corridor. This annual transit payment will be sufficient to expand transit and other travel options in this corridor and fund outcomes from the on-going Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Transit Transportation Demand Management study. This study is being conducted in a cooperative manner with jurisdictions along the corridor and will be complete by this December.

At this time, the Commonwealth is in the process of evaluating its options for the delivery of the 395 Express Lanes extension. The project will be delivered either through the current public-private partnership agreement for the 95 Express Lanes, a new public-private partnership procurement or as a publicly funded facility. A decision on the path forward will be made in the coming months, and we will ensure that the selected option will provide for the annual transit and TDM funding outlined above.

We will not be able to solely build our way out of congestion in large urban areas like Northern Virginia. With the completion of the Transform66 project, our major interstate corridors will have essentially reached their ultimate footprints where future widening will be cost prohibitive, impacts to communities too great, or both. This situation means the Commonwealth must find ways to move more people in the current Interstate capacity and right-of-way. Key to our success is dedicated and on-going funding for transit and TDM.

If you have any questions related to this matter please contact Nick Donohue, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, at (804) 786-8032 or Nick.Donohue@governor.virginia.gov.

Thank you for your leadership on transportation in Northern Virginia.

Sincerely,

Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.

Copy:
Timothy Lovain, Chair of TPB
Jay Fisette, Chair of NVTC
Frank Principi, Chair of PRTC
Mary H. Hynes, CTB NoVA District
F. Gary Garczynski, CTB Vice-Chairman and At-large urban
E. Scott Kasprowicz, CTB at-large urban
Charlie Kilpatrick, VDOT Commissioner
Jennifer Mitchell, DRPT Director