



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

P.O. Box 178 – City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia 22313
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December 6, 2019

Abraham Lerner
Virginia Department of Transportation
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA. 22030

Re: I-395 at Seminary Rd IMR (Lite) Comments

Dear Mr. Lerner:

The City of Alexandria appreciates the opportunity to review the October 2019, I-395 at Seminary Road Interchange Modification Report (IMR) Lite. We expedited our review to get you our comments prior to the December 9 public meeting.

Overall, we found the analysis methodology is consistent with good industry practice and there were no fatal flaws in the assumptions, projections or results. VDOT is to be commended because the analysis is very thorough. The analysis found converting the ramp to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) operation slightly improves travel times for the northbound I-395 AM peak both in 2020 and 2040. No improvements were noted for other times. However, no increase in the number of people or vehicles moved through the corridor was identified. Furthermore, the analysis did not identify any travel time improvements or other benefits to the local roadway network by allowing the conversion of the ramp.

Based on the results of the IMR, the City finds no compelling reason to convert the Seminary ramp for High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) to HOT. There are still many unknowns and the City does not believe the risk is worth the minimal benefit. Additionally, the Alexandria City Council adopted a resolution in 2012 stating the City position with respect to the operation of the Northbound I-395/Seminary Road HOV/Transit Ramp.

I can be reached at 703-746-4017 should you have further questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Orr".

Hillary Orr
Deputy Director for Transportation
Department of Transportation and Environmental Services