

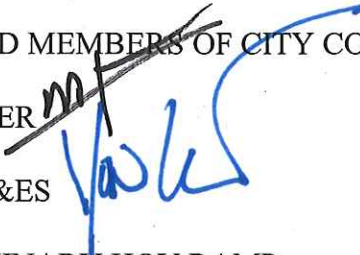
# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** MAY 16, 2019

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**THROUGH:** MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER 

**FROM:** YON LAMBERT, DIRECTOR, T&ES

**SUBJECT:** TRANSURBAN STUDY OF SEMINARY HOV RAMP

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The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the I-395 Seminary Road south-facing HOV ramp study proposal by Transurban. City staff met with Transurban and VDOT on May 3, 2019 to receive an update on the Seminary HOV to HOT ramp conversion study (Attachment 1). As Council is aware, the purpose of this study is to determine what impacts converting the ramp from HOV to HOT might have on local roads. The update was an interim update which provided City staff with an early opportunity to comment on Transurban/VDOT study methodology. The study is still in the early stages with most of the analysis yet to be completed.

Transurban reported that the study is analyzing routing shifts and impacts to local roads created by the conversion of the ramp. VISSIM, a micro simulation model, is being used to model the impacts. VISSIM is the industry standard for this type of work. Traffic data for the study was collected in October and November 2018.

Existing traffic patterns were estimated using Streetlight data and traffic counts. This is also a standard methodology. Streetlight combines data from several sources including tracking the movement of smartphone addresses through the roadway network. The study will consider the area around Seminary Road, Mark Center/BRAC, I-395, I-495, to the Wilson Bridge. Preliminary findings suggest that only six percent of the AM trips to and from the Seminary study area are Maryland commuters, 36 percent are from Alexandria and 36 percent are from Fairfax. Staff believes this data and methodology need further refinement and VDOT/Transurban have agreed to make the staff recommended changes.

Preliminary findings highlight that local streets are being used to bypass interstate congestion. VDOT/Transurban believe allowing the conversion from HOV to HOT could divert more traffic from Seminary Road onto the HOT lanes. The study is expected to be finalized in September and staff will provide future updates.

Attachment 1: Transurban Presentation