City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

William D. Euille
Mayor

ALL-AMERICACITY
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1964

City Hall: (703) 746-4500
Home: (703) 836-2680
Fax: (703) 838-6433
william.euille@alexandriava.gov

November 22, 2013

Honorable George Barker
39th District Office
P.O. Box 10527
Alexandria, Virginia 22310

Re: Community Concerns with Noise Walls Evaluation Process Related to VDOT Project I-395 HOV Ramp at Seminary Road with Auxiliary Lane Extension

Dear Senator Barker:

On behalf of the Alexandria City Council, I would like to bring to your attention resident concerns brought to our November 16, 2013 public hearing regarding the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) project sound walls as proposed along I-395.

As part of this project, VDOT commissioned a noise impact analysis, the final report of which was issued on November 18, 2013. In this study, five noise walls were evaluated and determined to be feasible and reasonable in accordance with VDOT State Noise Abatement Policy.

Several residents (some of whom are within the impacted area as defined by federal/state guidelines) expressed concerns about the real benefits of these noise walls and would like to have sufficient time to evaluate this noise impact analysis before voting on them. Another concern raised by the community is the loss of trees and the visual impacts associated with this proposed work.

Since the issue is largely under State jurisdiction, the City would appreciate your making the following recommendations to VDOT:

- It should carry out an expansive outreach program to the widest audience as practically possible.
- It should extend the voting deadline (even beyond the current VDOT voting deadline of January 2, 2014) to allow residents sufficient time to evaluate the noise impact analysis report and understand the prescribed voting procedure.
- It should, as much as possible, minimize the loss of trees and visual impacts to the communities by enhancing the tree canopy along the I-395 construction project.

Please let me know if you need further information. On behalf of all Alexandrians, I would like to express our gratitude for your assistance with this issue.

Sincerely,

William D. Euille
Mayor

cc: Honorable Members of City Council
Rashad M. Young, City Manager
Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
Bernard Caton, Legislative Director
Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, Department of Transportation & Environmental Services
Larry Tomlinson, P.E., L.S., CCM, VDOT Design-Build Project Manager