

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
c/o Northern Virginia Regional Commission
3060 Williams Drive, Suite 510
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

January 17, 2006

The Honorable Michael Knapp, Chairman
Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Reference: Amendment to TPB SR9-2006 (Idea-66 Spot Improvements)

Dear Chairman Knapp:

On January 12, 2005, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority approved the following motion regarding the scope of work for projects included in the referenced Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment:

The spot improvements project will include:

1. Coordination with the planned extension of Metrorail to Tysons Corner and ensure that spot improvements don't preclude a third Metrorail track and express bus operations.
2. Certification by VDOT that all aspects of the project are in full compliance with all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA);
3. Clarification of the I-66 right-of-way boundaries to assure that any proposed construction can occur within the existing right-of-way and maintain any adjacent parkland or the Custis Trail;
4. Evaluation of HOV enforcement areas, a continuous 12-foot shoulder, signing, Traffic Management Systems (TMS) and ramp metering.
5. The planning and design studies for the I-66 spot improvements should also include coordination with the ongoing efforts to develop a regional emergency evacuation plan. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Transportation Planning Board, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Arlington County's Fire, Police, and Emergency Rescue Departments are some of the participants in this regional effort.
6. Safety will not be degraded by the project.

Please incorporate these items into your approval of the amendment.

Separate from the action on this TIP amendment, at its January 12, 2006, meeting, NVTA asked that funding be sought for a long-range multimodal environmental document that will address the public transportation needs for the I-66 Multimodal Corridor. This document will include a comprehensive and objective evaluation of long-term public transportation needs in the I-66 multimodal corridor. Most importantly, analysis must address any potential conflicts between

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the proposed improvements and the planned extension of Metrorail to Tysons Corner. This evaluation should also address the ability to accommodate third and fourth Metrorail tracks in the median of I-66 inside the Beltway, should they be required for express service for the planned 23-mile Dulles Rail Extension into Loudoun County, or for the planned Orange Line extension to Centreville or Gainesville, or to maintain adequate Metrorail capacity within Arlington County.

As part of the multimodal environmental document, VDOT should study value pricing and relatively low-cost traffic-operation, solutions such as provision of express bus service and HOV-3.

Sincerely,

/s/

David Snyder, Chairman
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

cc: Members, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
Virginia Members, Transportation Planning Board