



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

GREGORY A. WHIRLEY
COMMISSIONER

June 18, 2012

The Honorable Todd Turner
Chairman, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
2614 Kenhill Drive
Bowie, MD 20715-2599

Dear Chairman Turner:

Attached is the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) I-66 Multimodal Study Inside the Beltway. The study was conducted to fulfill the request of Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Resolution R12-2009. Thank you for the assistance we received from your staff and the local jurisdictions throughout the current study.

Some of the major items that can be found in the executive summary and in more detail in the body of the report are:

- The planning year for this long-term study was 2040.
- The study did not analyze or validate projects already in the Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP), but rather used them (including transition to HOV 3) as a baseline to build the longer term recommendations.
- The study does recommend a number of multimodal actions for specific bus, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements, including retaining and improving the Custis Trail. Eight-car metro trains recommended in previous studies, but not currently in the CLRP, remain essential to the long term mobility of the region. The DRPT 2009 Transit and Travel Demand Management Study recommended improvements are also necessary.
- VDOT received a request during stakeholder interviews to study bus shoulder bypass lanes on I-66 in the analysis. Instead, VDOT elected to pursue a pilot program in partnership with the localities to implement them in the corridor and record actual performance data.

The Honorable Todd Turner
June 18, 2012
Page 2

- The study recommends a tiered approach from near to long term improvements:
 1. Improvements already in the Constrained Long Range Plan.
 2. Transit and Travel Demand Management Improvements from the 2009 VDRPT Study and eight-car trains from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Core Capacity Study.
 3. Incrementally completing components of the package of multimodal improvements recommended by this study to get the most effect for the least cost.
 - Ultimately, a third travel lane at selected locations on I-66 is shown in the study to maximize the mobility components of passenger throughput and congestion relief for the projected long-term demand.
 - The study further recommends that the use of proven design exceptions be explored for any roadway widening to enable remaining within the existing right of way.

This tiered approach is being submitted to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Transportation Planning Board for consideration of future funding for these long range improvements. This offers an opportunity for effective improvements to be applied as constrained funds become available.

If you have detailed questions, please contact Mr. Kanathur N. Srikanth at (703) 259-2220 or Kanathur.srikanth@vdot.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Garrett W. Moore, P.E.
District Administrator
Northern Virginia District

Attachment