



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

F. Gary Garczynski
Northern Virginia District

13662 Office Place
Suite 201 B
Woodbridge, VA 22192

August 24, 2015

RE: Potomac River Crossings

Dear Colleagues:

At the July CTB meeting, Deputy Secretary Donohue briefed us on the Origins and Destinations Study of Potomac River Crossings. This briefing highlighted the I-495 American Legion Bridge as an ever increasing chokepoint and was accompanied by a draft resolution to engage Maryland Transportation officials on the expansion of the bridge with additional HOT/HOV-3 lanes on the Maryland side. The Study also touched upon the continuing population and job growth that has evolved, as projected, in the area west of I-495 on both sides of the river. There are no other crossings to the west of the American Legion Bridge until the Point of Rocks 2-lane bridge which is 30+ miles away.

In the discussions that followed the presentation, we both emphasized that the American Legion Bridge expansion is a necessity. However, a new western crossing remains essential not only due to the aforementioned population and job growth beyond the Beltway to the west but also to the future of one of the Commonwealth's critical economic engines, Virginia's global gateway, Washington-Dulles Airport.

Significant business and citizen support exists on both sides of the river for a new western crossing. There are public and private sector efforts underway to bring Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's administration on board to support a new western crossing. A CTB resolution declaring only the American Legion Bridge as a priority, with no initiative regarding a new bridge, will seriously undermine these efforts.

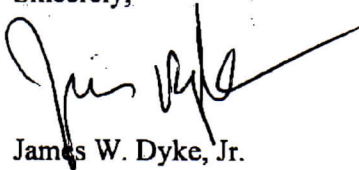
Right-of-way for a new crossing has yet to be protected. Failure to do so soon will result in new residential and commercial construction eliminating the best, if not all, options. In short, further

delay most certainly will preclude the feasibility of a new crossing and the benefits that go with it.

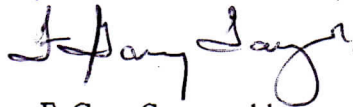
The passage of a CTB resolution directing VDOT to enter into discussions with their Maryland counterparts regarding the extension of I-495 HOT/HOV-3 lanes across the American Legion Bridge to I-270 and other Potomac River crossings will not guarantee that additional crossings or that the American Legion Bridge improvements will occur. However, passage of a resolution focused solely on the American Legion Bridge will most assuredly mean that the delay will eliminate the ability to construct additional crossings and the realization of their important benefits to the Commonwealth.

In closing, we would very much like your support of a resolution that urges both avenues be on the table with Maryland Transportation officials.

Sincerely,



James W. Dyke, Jr.
At Large Urban
Commonwealth Transportation Board



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