

**The Importance of Choosing Wisely
Transform I-66 Inside the Beltway
Comments by
The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
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The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance has long supported increasing I-66 transit capacity inside and outside the Beltway as essential to improving long term mobility in the corridor and the region.

The construction of a third eastbound lane to mirror the existing westbound lane inside the Beltway is essential to achieving that goal.

An important benefit preserved in the I-66 Inside the Beltway compromise - negotiated by Governor McAuliffe and state legislators - was the retention of dedicated inside the Beltway toll revenues to support expansion of transit services, roadway and intersection improvements, carpools and vanpools and other multi-modal investments to move more people and reduce corridor congestion.

While this new revenue creates new opportunities it also imposes the responsibility to choose and invest wisely in services that provide the most immediate, measurable, quantifiable benefits to corridor users. Nineteen projects with varying benefits have been evaluated. As expected, dollars requested far exceed dollars available. The Alliance urges the Commission to resist the temptation to spread these dollars across the political landscape.

The Alliance believes the projects of greatest regional and corridor benefit are:

- Loudoun County Demand Management
- Loudoun County Metro station connectors from One Loudoun and Leesburg East park and ride lot.
- Fairfax Connector service from Government Center to Foggy Bottom and from Stringfellow Road to the Pentagon and Mark Center.
- PRTC Gainesville to Pentagon connector service.

Project readiness is not as important as project benefit. Nothing requires the Commission to spend every available dollar immediately. The real measure of this program's success will not be how quickly dollars are spent, but how well.

In determining ultimate project effectiveness, throughput should be valued more than the amount of funding requested. Relying more on cost may enhance the scores of lesser performing projects that benefit relatively few people and reduce the scores of larger investments which benefit far more people.

In the movie *The Last Crusade*, Indiana Jones is presented with an array of choices. He is advised "You must choose, but choose wisely."

Likewise this Commission has many projects from which to choose and the Alliance urges you to choose wisely. Choosing poorly may not cause Commission members to turn to dust, but it most certainly will impact this Commission's credibility and the ability to get more revenue in the future to invest in multi-modal improvements that will reduce corridor congestion, thus improving reliability and throughput.

So again, please choose wisely.