



**Testimony of Robert O. Chase
To National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Regarding 2016 CLRP Amendments
October 19, 2016**

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance welcomes the opportunity to make the following recommendations and observations on the 2016 CLRP.

The Alliance endorses the inclusion of the I-395 multi-modal Express Lanes, the revised I-66 inside and outside the Beltway multi-modal improvements, the new Route 28 lanes and the VRE Extension amendments to the 2016 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP).

More specifically the Alliance notes that I-66 inside and outside Beltway improvements are the only project that meet all 6 TPB Regional Transportation Priority Plan goals.

The Alliance observes that the I-395 multi-modal improvements could already be operational today, providing more transportation options and better activity center connections, plus operational efficiencies, safety and greenhouse gas reductions.

The Route 28 corridor is of great regional significance. It's high congestion levels disprove daily the myth and outright lie that all Northern Virginia's regional traffic demand is east-west and not north-south.

Establishment and support of the Virginia Railway Express system has been a 30-year Alliance priority. The Alliance believes its extension is important and that Gainesville is the most realistic and cost effective terminus.

We also support the US 1 and Routes 7 and 659 TIP improvements.

As for the bigger issue of the 2040 CLRP itself, the Alliance notes

- That its implementation results in higher 2040 congestion and delay levels than currently exist.
- That the investment in transit operations alone is equal to the all highway operation, maintenance and construction investments combined.
- That it contains scores, even hundreds of projects that fail to approach regional significance.
- That the analysis mentions the absence of the Metro's 8-car trains (an Alliance priority), but not the absence of any Maryland Beltway or American Legion Bridge improvement or a new Potomac River crossing all of which would greatly improve future travel conditions.
- That arguably inclusion of these and a dozen or so other projects of true regional significance would do more to reduce regional congestion and improve overall network reliability than the billions being spent on lesser projects.
- And that with millions of new people and jobs and over 4 million new daily trips in the pipeline, our region is likely to continue to become more congested, less connected and less globally competitive unless it's Transportation Planning Board musters the political will to place more full-time focus to transportation investments of true regional significance.

PO Box 6149
McLean, VA 22106-6149
tel-703/883-1830
www.nvta.org