

March 29, 2019

Secretary Pete Rahn
Maryland Department of Transportation
707 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: MDOT/SHA P3 for Maryland Traffic Relief Plan along the I-495 & I-270 corridors

Dear Secretary Rahn:

As representatives of the vast majority of employers in the Greater Washington region, we are writing to express our support for the Maryland Department of Transportation's efforts to move forward with Phase 1 of the Governor's Traffic Relief Plan.

This project represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and longstanding need to address one of our region's worst bottlenecks – the American Legion Bridge – while implementing a I-495/I-270 managed lane network that will produce tremendous regional benefits while minimizing risk to taxpayers through an innovative P3 approach.

Of the Maryland Department of Transportation's recently released screened alternatives, we believe that Option 9 adding two managed lanes in each direction on the American Legion Bridge, I-495, and I-270, combined with improved regional transit and HOV connectivity on the managed lanes represents Maryland's and the region's smartest investment.

By creating choices and relieving congestion on existing lanes, managed lanes are clearly the best way to provide a reliable trip for Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. travelers during rush hour and throughout the day.

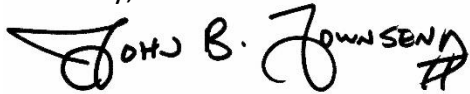
In addition, allowing high occupancy vehicles - including transit vehicles - free use of the managed lanes, creates a seamless managed lane network between Maryland and Virginia.

We also applaud your efforts to improve regional transit service by ensuring managed lane access, where practicable, to current transit routes and your commitment to other corridor transit enhancements such as the Purple Line and Corridor City Transitway.

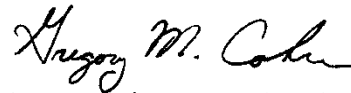
The need for and benefits of the American Legion Bridge, I-270 and I-495 improvements have been extensively studied and documented. Further delay only increases the cost and jeopardizes Maryland's ability to provide long-overdue, cost-effective congestion relief.

Thank you for undertaking pivotal regional transportation improvements that will significantly improve travel, quality of life and economic opportunities for Maryland residents and the region as a whole.

Sincerely,



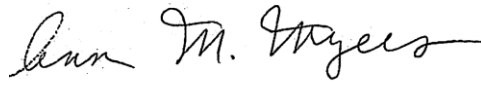
John B. Townsend II, Public & Government Affairs
AAA Mid-Atlantic



Greg M. Cohen, Executive Director
American Highway Users Alliance



Brian M. Gordon, MPA, VP of Government Affairs
Apartment and Office Building Association



Ann Myers, President
Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce



Dennis Drinkard, President
Committee for Dulles



Doug Pickford, Executive Director/CEO
Dulles Area Transportation Association



John Boylan, President & CEO
Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce



Rick Weldon, President & CEO
Frederick County Chamber of Commerce



Marilyn Balcombe, President & CEO
Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce



Ginanne M. Italiano, IOM, President & CEO
Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce



Mark S. Ingrao, President & CEO
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce



Jane Redicker, IOM, President & CEO
Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce



Kimberly Clarke, President & CEO
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce



Ken Garrison, Executive Director
Heavy Construction Contractors Association

Anthony Howard, President & CEO
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce

Paul Kohlenberger, President
Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce

Martha D. Marks, President
NAIOP-Northern Virginia: The Commercial
Real Estate Development Assoc.

Holly Hicks Dougherty, Executive Director
Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce

Steven Marku, Director Government Relations
Northern Virginia Building Industry Assoc.

Christine Richardson, Chairman of the Board
Northern Virginia Association of Realtors®

Deborah Jones, President & CEO
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Julie Coons, President & CEO
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Susana Marino, President
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G. Evan Pritchard, Chairman of the Board
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance

Jennifer Russel, Chair of the Board
Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance

Tucker R. Gladhill, Chairman of the Board
Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce

Lori Graf, CEO
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Keith Meurlin, President
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Michael Sakata, Executive Director
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