Alliance Statement to the Maryland Transportation Authority Supporting Expansion of the Regional Express Lanes Network
April 30, 2020

My name is Jason Stanford and I am the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance. The Alliance is a coalition of citizens, business, and nonprofit organizations throughout the greater Washington region including Northern Virginia, Suburban Maryland, and Washington, D.C. For more than 30 years, we have championed major transportation improvements for our community.

I am here today on behalf of our members to share our strong support for Maryland's efforts to increase roadway capacity on the American Legion Bridge, I-495, and I-270 through an innovative public-private partnership and extension of the regional express lanes network.

At a time when our region's economy is experiencing an unprecedented crisis, this project will inject billions of dollars of private funding into our local economy and create thousands of new jobs. This private funding will also free up scarce public dollars for other transportation priorities during this constrained fiscal climate.

Even with a possible increase in mode shift to automobiles due to a decrease in transit ridership as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the transportation benefits of this project are clear. It will dramatically reduce travel time delays for ALL roadway users, improve regional connectivity, increase transit options for express bus service, incentivize carpooling, relieve traffic congestion, and create an option for reliable travel that simply does not exist today.

This project is a part of our region's approved long-range plan – Visualize 2045 - and showed the most dramatic increase in reliability when compared with all of the transportation improvements in the plan.

For these reasons and more, we urge Maryland policymakers to continue moving forward with this project as quickly as possible. It is absolutely critical to the future quality of life and economic prosperity of our region. Thank you.