



September 30, 2020

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office
Attn: Abi Lerner, P.E.
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

RE: 495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Project

Dear Mr. Lerner:

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance's members and Board of Directors, I am writing today to express our strong support for the I-495 NEXT project.

This project is critical to Northern Virginia's transportation future. In addition to expanding travel capacity, creating new travel options, and relieving congestion at one of the area's worst bottlenecks, it is an essential component of an integrated express lanes network – one of this area's top long-range transportation priorities.

The Transportation Planning Board's regional express lanes network's performance analysis concluded that congestion managed lanes provide the greatest increase in regional transportation network reliability. The TPB then endorsed inclusion of the express lanes network in the region's long-range transportation plan – Visualize 2045.

Furthermore, the 495 NEXT Project will dramatically reduce congestion and delays for both managed lane users and the general-purpose lanes compared to the No Build option.

Expanding the region's HOT Lanes Network improves all modes of transportation in the 495 corridor. HOT Lanes incentivize more carpooling and transit ridership by dramatically increasing the reliability of both modes for free. To maximize this advantage, VDOT and MDOT are already studying bus rapid transit improvements using the new lanes. Additionally, this project's 3-mile shared use path will connect to local trails and greatly enhance bicycle and pedestrian travel.

At a time when our region is struggling to cope with the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, this 100% privately funded project will create thousands of new jobs and inject hundreds of millions of new dollars into our economy.

Now is the time to move forward with this regionally significant project that will benefit our transportation network, economy, and community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Stanford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason Stanford
President
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance