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Tim McLaughlin
FAMPO Chairman

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October 15, 2018

Honorable Shannon Valentine
Secretary of Transportation
Commonwealth of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Studying the Feasibility of Adding a Southbound Access Point to the 95 Express Lanes in Stafford County

Dear Secretary Valentine:

We support and appreciate the Commonwealth's ongoing Interstate 95 corridor improvement efforts in the Fredericksburg Region to help alleviate the worst traffic congestion in the country, according to the most recent INRIX Traffic Study. Within six years, the planned 95 Express Lanes extension from Exit 143 to Exit 133 and the Rappahannock River Crossing projects will provide some much-needed additional capacity along this corridor.

We are concerned, however, with the inability of the planned 95 Express Lanes extension to accommodate southbound access because no southbound access point is currently planned in the Fredericksburg Region. Interstate 95 in Stafford County is chronically congested today, and traffic is expected to continue to worsen in the future. Furthermore, our region is expected to nearly double in population by 2045 and supports extending the 95 Express Lanes from Exit 133 to Massaponax in the future to accommodate expected growth. As a result, we feel that additional southbound 95 Express Lanes access should be studied and planned for now as part of the current 95 Express Lanes extension project in Stafford County. We also feel that the vicinity of Exit 140 (Courthouse Rd) should be one of the areas studied for providing this southbound access.

We would greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and are interested in having some of our representatives meet with you and your staff to discuss. One possibility could be on November 28 before the 4 P.M. Fall Transportation Meeting for Fredericksburg District. Thank you for your efforts to improve traffic safety and mobility in our region and the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Tim McLaughlin
Chairman

Cc: **FAMPO Policy Committee**
CTB Members
State Delegation