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Tim McLaughlin
FAMPO Chairman

Paul Agnello
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Mr. Bill Arel
VDOT MegaProjects Engineer
87 Deacon Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

RE: I-95 NB Rappahannock River Crossing Public Comment

Mr. Arel,

We are writing to provide public comment for the I-95 NB Rappahannock River Crossing project (UPC #105510) based on the materials provided at the January 30, 2019 public meeting. We strongly support the project, but have some concerns regarding the planned Exit 133: US Rte 17 interchange improvements for the I-95 NB to US Rte 17 WB ramp movement. We feel that the bid option shown on Display Board 4B is clearly superior to the base option shown on Display Board 4A. As a result, we feel that the Commonwealth should make funding the bid option a priority even if the cost of the project ends up being above the current \$132 million budget after bids become available. If additional funding is needed, we feel that additional FRED EX funding should be considered as an option to fund the interchange improvements shown on Display Board 4B.

Finding a way to fund the Display Board 4B interchange improvements is important for several reasons. First, the most recent INRIX national congestion study listed I-95 in Stafford County in the vicinity of Exit 133 as being the most congested roadway in the entire country. Second, I-95 and US Rte 17 are both VTRANS Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS) which are prioritized higher for transportation improvements and the Display Board 4B interchange improvements linking these two CoSS provides a potential once in a lifetime opportunity to improve capacity and safety. Third, I-95 NB to US Rte 17 WB ramp movement traffic is expected to increase significantly in the future as a result of increased interstate and regional travel and statewide and regional economic development and growth. Finally, the Display Board 4A option would add a new signal to US Rte 17 for what has traditionally been a continuous flow movement and likely lead to capacity and safety issues in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on this important regional project and we greatly appreciate the Commonwealth's ongoing efforts to support and improve travel safety and mobility in our region.

Thank you,

Honorable Tim McLaughlin
FAMPO Chairman

I-95 NB Rappahannock River Crossing Exit 133 Interchange Options

Display Board 4A Base Option: Within \$132 Million Budget



Display Board 4B Bid Option if \$132 Million Budget permits

