



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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COMMISSIONER

June 26, 2009

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Suite 530
Fairfax, VA 22035

Subject: Capital Beltway HOT Lanes Project Suspension of Work

Dear Fairfax County Board of Supervisors,

This letter is intended to provide you an update on efforts that have been underway to address stormwater management concerns that have occurred on the Capital Beltway HOT Lanes Project.

The project has an extensive stormwater management program in place, with ongoing monitoring by VDOT and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). However, some areas within the 28-mile project corridor (14 miles in each direction) were overtaxed by the significant rainfall received in recent weeks. This prompted the need for reassessment and enhancements to our stormwater management practices and controls. Consequently, on June 12, VDOT expressed concerns to their private partners, resulting in the decision on June 19, to issue a temporary suspension of work in some areas of the corridor to cooperatively complete this assessment and improvement process.

As part of the action plan moving forward, several enhanced stormwater management tools have been identified and will be implemented as needed in certain areas of the project corridor to ensure better protection during future rain events. These enhancements include:

- Reinforced silt fences, referred to as "super-silt" fences to retain sediment
- Deeper sediment traps to collect sediment and keep water clean
- Additional rock check dams to reduce water velocity and hence reduce erosion
- Additional slope drains to prevent slope erosion
- Reseeding and/or mulching exposed soil surfaces
- Installation of additional riprap, or loose stone, along the edge of streams to stabilize embankments
- Additional temporary diversion dikes to divert water to sediment control facilities

These enhanced stormwater protection measures will complement existing measures that are in place to protect the project corridor. Existing stormwater controls include:

- Nearly 20 miles of silt fences and sediment traps to keep water clean
- Storm sewer inlet and outlet protection for swales, ditches, and stream channels
- Pumping operations into "silt bags" to remove sediment from discharge
- Numerous rocked construction entrances
- Rock check dams at natural and manmade ditches
- Stabilizing cleared and excavated areas by seeding
- Use of soil stabilization blankets to promote seeding establishment
- Riprap to stabilize embankments
- Routine inspections, and stepped up inspections after every significant rain event

Additionally, to provide further protection, the project is advancing the installation of permanent stormwater control structures to eliminate temporary control measures.

To ensure the effectiveness of these controls, increased environmental inspection and monitoring will be a critical component to the project's ongoing stormwater management efforts. The project will be conducting more frequent and comprehensive environmental monitoring, including daily monitoring by the project team and bi-weekly quality assurance monitoring by an independent environmental monitoring and inspection team. Furthermore, we will launch a new "Field Environmental Action Team (FEAT)," consisting of dedicated project staff that is focused on ensuring environmental compliance and protection.

All construction activities impacted by the aforementioned suspension will resume after the Department has inspected stormwater protection controls throughout the project corridor.

We would be happy to conduct individual briefings with you or community groups concerned with the stormwater management program, or we welcome their contacting us directly should individuals or groups have specific concerns. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me or VDOT's Megaproject Communications Director, Steven Titunik.

Sincerely,



Larry O. Cloyed, PMP
Sr. Project Manager

Copy:

Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
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