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JOINT BOARD MATTER
With Supervisors Smyth, DuBois and Hudgins
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Traffic Mitigation/Rapid Response in Tysons Corner

Background:

Fairfax County has a successful track record of collaborating with the community and other organizations to create effective Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies for reducing the traffic impacts both during and after construction of new commercial and residential developments and new transportation improvements. With several major projects converging in Tysons Corner – i.e. the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, the addition of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on the Beltway and the expansions of Tysons Corner Center and the Corporate Office Centre at Tysons II, each with their own TDM components -- we have the opportunity to mitigate congestion comprehensively through the creation of a rapid response “war room.”

Working with rail project office, VDOT and their partners in the private sector, we would like to see the capacity for a rapid response to any construction-related incidents, automobile accidents, or other events that might affect travel through and around the construction zones. In the event of an incident or lane closure, the “war room” would serve as an information intake center, coordinating with the Virginia Department of Transportation, County staff, the rail project office, and large employers in Tysons Corner to disseminate that information to residents, employees and others who might be in the vicinity. We understand the rail project office has already committed to undertake such activities with the creation of a 24-hour hotline, coordination with the VDOT traffic center and other strategies. All of that will certainly be helpful, and must be well communicated within the community. In addition, we see this as an opportunity to encourage greater use of telework, ride share, staggered work times and other TDM strategies by large employers within Tysons Corner.

Although the situation was slightly different, the success of the traffic mitigation program at the Springfield Interchange Project ought to be emulated in Tysons Corner. VDOT successfully worked with the community and local businesses affected by that massive construction project – a seven year work in progress that is scheduled to be finished later this year – to minimize impacts on local commutes. That success was due in large part to the grassroots work of the local project office and its staff, which was based in the construction zone, readily accessible and in routine contact with the community. By coordinating a similar effort with the various projects in

Tysons Corner, this “war room” concept could significantly reduce congestion problems that will arise during the ongoing construction.

Therefore;

Motion:

I move that the Board of Supervisors direct the County Executive to work with the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project office (i.e. VDRPT), VDOT, Macerich (Tysons Corner Center), Lerner Enterprises (Corporate Office Centre at Tysons II), TYTRAN and other related organizations in and around Tysons Corner to explore the creation of a “war room” to coordinate congestion mitigation in Tysons Corner and report back to the Board with his findings.