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JEFFREY C. MCKAY
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Joint Board Matter

Chairman Bulova
Supervisor McKay
Supervisor Hyland

July 27, 2010

Madam Chairman- The Fort Belvoir Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) plan has created the immediate need for infrastructure improvements in the surrounding area, particularly transportation improvements. As the Board knows, the federal Fort Belvoir BRAC plan will require a significant effort by the federal government to appropriately mitigate the effects of relocating approximately 12,000-19,000 personnel to Fairfax County. As base realignment is a federal decision, mitigating the impact of the realignment must also be a federal responsibility. However, the federal government has fallen far short of providing the appropriate funding needed to deal with the traffic impacts that will affect the Fort Belvoir area just over one year from now.

Fortunately, the federal FY 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill, passed by Congress and signed by President Obama included \$300 million to be divided among transportation projects providing access to the new Fort Belvoir Community Hospital and the new Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda. The Fort Belvoir funding was provided at the behest of Congressman

Jim Moran, and it was anticipated that approximately \$150 million would be available for improvements to ease traffic congestion along Richmond Highway (Route 1) corridor which provides the primary access to Fort Belvoir and the new community hospital. Without these improvements, there will be significant delays in the Route 1 corridor with the opening of the new Belvoir Community Hospital and the other BRAC installations at Fort Belvoir.

Subsequent to the passage of the FY 2010 Defense appropriations bill, a technical problem with how the funds were appropriated was identified. Since that time, Congressman Moran has led the effort to attain passage of the technical adjustment needed to release these funds. However, concerns about the struggling national economy and rising deficit have made what should have been a minor, easy fix more difficult to approve as Congress works to complete its business before the November elections. As a result, we must continue to be vigilant to ensure that this funding is appropriated as expeditiously as possible, as it is so crucial to the Route 1 corridor.

The Board is closely monitoring this issue, and therefore, I move that staff and the County's federal contract lobbyists be directed to continue to work with Congressional staff to convey the Board's sense of urgency to ensure the availability of this essential funding. To that effect, I further move that individual letters similar to the attached letter be sent to the County's Congressional Delegation as soon as possible.

