



County of Fairfax, Virginia

Supervisor Pat Herrity Jointly With Supervisor Michael Frey Board Matter

January 28, 2008

Extended Use of Shoulder Lanes and HOV Ramps on Interstate 66

Mr. Chairman, as the Board is aware, I-66 during peak hours frustrates commuters as they sit in stop and go traffic or flat-out gridlock. On weekends, congestion can be as bad as it is during the week. The most recent traffic count information I obtained indicated that during peak hours in each direction, approximately 20-25,000 vehicles pass through the corridor of I-66 near Route 50 during the week. VDOT has shared with me its tentative plans to extend the hours the shoulder lane of I-66 will be open to traffic. During the morning rush hours, the shoulder lane eastbound will be open an hour later until 11:00 a.m., and in the evening commute, the lane will open an hour early, at 2 p.m. This could potentially be implemented as early as April. It will increase capacity and hopefully improve commutes for not only Springfield and Sully District drivers, but commuters county-wide. VDOT indicated that an expression of support for this change from the Board of Supervisors would be helpful.

In addition, I-66 has two ramps that are currently open only during peak hours and restricted to HOV use. I believe the Fairfax Center area would benefit greatly from improved access from I-66, reducing drive time and congestion. In addition, opening the Monument Drive ramp would give County employees and citizens more direct access to the Government Center. VDOT has begun its review of these changes.

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Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I move that a letter be sent on behalf of the Board to:

- **Commend VDOT staff for their efforts to improve mobility on I-66 in the near term;**
- **Express support for and encourage the expeditious extension of rush hour use of the shoulder lanes;**
- **Encourage VDOT to determine the feasibility and infrastructure changes needed to open the shoulder lanes on weekends, and;**
- **Express support for the opening of the Monument Drive and Stringfellow Road ramps to traffic during non-HOV hours, provided this can be safely accomplished.**

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