



February 18, 2020

Dear Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (“the Authority”) asks that you **approve the provisions of House Bill 729 (Watts), House Bill 1414 (Filler-Corn) and Senate Bill 890 (Saslaw)**, that would provide an annual \$70 million to the Authority to address Northern Virginia’s significant transportation challenges. In 2018, with the diversion of two of three regional revenue sources from the Authority approved in HB 2313 (2013) – a regional Grantors Tax and a regional Transient Occupancy Tax – Northern Virginia lost a total of \$102 million annually, through the successful effort to provide Virginia’s \$154 million share of funding to meet the state of good repair needs for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The majority of this funding was provided through the diversion of revenues from our region’s efforts to address transportation congestion through the investment in multimodal transportation improvements.

Moreover, the loss of the two revenue streams resulted in some localities having limited use of their 30% funds due to a required contribution to the Metro Capital Fund.

The goal of HB 2313 was to provide additional regional revenues to add transportation capacity resulting in reduced congestion – a promise made to our taxpayers.

We ask that you include the provisions of HB 729 in both HB 1414 and SB 890, approve the bills, and send them on to the Governor. The combination of provisions in all three bills meet three critical goals of the Authority:

- Provides significant restoration funding to enable the Authority to meet its mandate to reduce traffic congestion in Northern Virginia;
- Strengthens credibility and creditworthiness of the Authority with rating agencies; and
- Provides funding that does not solely rely on new additional taxes on residents of Northern Virginia.

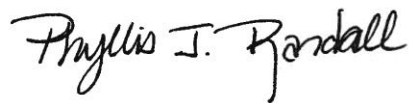
The Authority also supports the Administration’s safety initiatives embodied in several bills before you. We urge you to:

- Require seatbelt use of all passengers in the vehicle;
- Prohibit the use of handheld personnel communication devices;
- Establish a speed monitoring system on three highway safety corridors using remote cameras;
- Allow localities to lower the speed limit to below 25 mph in business and residential districts; and
- Make it illegal to have an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

To date, the Authority has advanced 94 multimodal transportation projects totaling more than \$2 billion – but our job is not done. We are currently updating our inaugural Six Year Program. Our localities and agency partners have submitted funding requests totaling \$1.44 billion in regional transportation projects, which the Authority is currently considering. The majority of these requests are for funds to complete projects already underway that will reduce congestion and improve mobility, allowing people to get home to their families faster.

Please support restoring annual and sustained funding for the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Phyllis J. Randall
Chair, Authority
Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors



The Honorable Harry J. Parrish II
Vice Chair, Authority
Mayor, City of Manassas