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October 2, 2018

Mr. Kanathur Srikanth
Executive Director
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Reference: Comments on Visualize 2045

Dear Mr. Srikanth:

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the draft Visualize 2045 Plan. On behalf of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to provide the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) comments regarding the Draft Plan that were discussed by the Board on October 2, 2018.

Overall, the Board supports the plan and recommends the Transportation Planning Board adopt Visualize 2045 on October 17, 2018. The Board supports and encourages this new kind of long-range planning effort that the TPB, which now includes aspirational projects, programs, and policies that go beyond financial constraints. The Board appreciates the multi-modal approach to accommodate anticipated growth in population and employment. Also, the Board is pleased that Visualize 2045 highlights bicycle and pedestrian projects, freight planning, and other transportation programs aimed at reducing congestion and improving air quality, as well as, presenting and analyzing key land-use issues facing the region, considering the link between land-use, economic vitality, and transportation.

The Board is especially pleased to see two highway projects in the Plan that will greatly benefit the region: 1) Maryland's I-95/495 Traffic Relief Plan, and 2) Virginia's I-495 – construct 4 HOT lanes project. Together, these two projects will address one of the region's major congested bottlenecks – the American Legion Bridge. The County believes that the capacity needs across the Potomac River must be addressed to alleviate the existing congestion and to ensure that the region remains economically vibrant.

The Board also appreciates the inclusion of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's plans for expanding capacity on Metrorail by running all eight-car trains during peak hours, making capacity improvements to stations in the system core, and plans to construct a new Rosslyn tunnel and station.

The Board requests that this letter be made a part of the public comments record, and that full consideration be given to these comments in adopting the Final Visualize 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan at the TPB's October 2, 2018, meeting.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Plan. If you need any clarification or further information, please call Mike Lake at (703) 877-5666 or me at (703) 324-2361.

Sincerely,

Sharon Bulova
Chairman

cc: Members, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Bryan J. Hill, County Executive
Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive
Catherine A. Chianese, Assistant County Executive
Tom Biesiadny, Director, Department of Transportation