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October 26, 2015

The Honorable Aubrey L. Layne
Secretary of Transportation
Commonwealth of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219



Dear Secretary Layne:

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce is writing to express our general support for the Transform66: Inside the Beltway plan to reduce the traffic congestion inside the Capital Beltway. Reducing congestion and further supporting mass transit options is vital to the Arlington business community and the region.



The Chamber represents 700 businesses with an interest in Arlington County. The mission of the Chamber is to strengthen businesses and the economic environment for those who work, live and do business in Arlington.



The Arlington Chamber strongly supports the development and maintenance of a safe, convenient, efficient, cost-effective multi-modal transportation network. We commend the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) decision in Transform66: Inside the Beltway for the toll revenue to be disseminated by Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) to support transit and multimodal solutions. NVTC brings the region together to plan, coordinate, and secure funding for transit systems that are financially sustainable and high performing. This mission coupled with its composition of elected officials from the affected localities makes NVTC an ideal choice to disseminate the funds.



Furthermore, the Arlington Chamber supports the decision to explore alternate means of reducing congestion of Interstate 66 before widening. We are hopeful that the plan objectives can be achieved without the additional cost of widening I-66. However, the Arlington Chamber would support an additional lane between the Dulles Connector Road and Ballston if after the implementation of Transform66 and studying its effects, VDOT believes widening to be cost effective. The Chamber whole-heartedly agrees with VDOT that widening to the east of Ballston would be ineffective as it would lead to bottlenecks when entering Rosslyn and traveling to the District of Columbia.





The Arlington Chamber, along with a number of other Chambers and business groups in the region, has concerns regarding access to Dulles International Airport. Dulles is a major economic driver for the region and the



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Commonwealth. We are concerned that tolling passengers accessing the airport could hurt the region's economic competitiveness. We encourage VDOT to work with Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) to find an economically beneficial solution.



The Arlington Chamber would like to thank VDOT, who have been giving presentations throughout the community, including to our Government Affairs & Economic Development Committee. We appreciate the community outreach that has been undertaken to inform the public about this plan.



Thank you for your consideration. The Arlington Chamber is hopeful to see Transform66: Inside the Beltway plan implemented.



Sincerely,



Kevin Shooshan
 Chair

Kate Roche
 President & CEO



CC: The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr., Commonwealth Transportation Board
 The Honorable Gary Garzinski, Commonwealth Transportation Board
 The Honorable Mary Hynes, Chairman, Arlington County Board
 The Honorable David Snyder, Chairman, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
 Kelley Coyner, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
 Dennis Leach, Director of Transportation, Arlington County

