



Testimony to the Commonwealth Transportation Board

Re: I-66 Outside Corridor Improvements

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Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce

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Secretary Layne and members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. My name is Brian Fauls. I am the Government Affairs Manager for the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of the Chamber's Leadership and our thirteen hundred member businesses, I am here to respectfully request the CTB to move forward as expeditiously as possible to upgrade Interstate 66 (I-66) outside, and ultimately inside, the Capital Beltway.

While I-66 does not run directly through Loudoun County, its impact on Loudoun County businesses and residents is unquestionable. I-66 is:

- A major regional commuter corridor;
- A major freight route;
- A key link to Washington-Dulles International Airport – a vital Loudoun County, regional and statewide economic engine; and
- A major homeland security emergency responder/regional evacuation route.

I mentioned the economic engine of Washington-Dulles Airport but the Airport is by no means the only Loudoun employer who will benefit from improvements to I-66. Over the past decade, Loudoun County has been one of the fastest-growing job markets in the United States, and today more than 9,500 businesses employing more than 137,000 people make Loudoun County their home. Organizations like Orbital Science Corporation, Raytheon, Federal Express, Wegman's, K2M, Telos Corporation, Verizon and George Mason University, just to name a few, will all benefit from improved accessibility to virtually every northern Virginia jurisdiction and major employment center.

In addition, Loudoun County has a vibrant rural economy. From our world class vineyards, high-quality livestock, and thoroughbred horses to our gourmet produce, the products of Loudoun County's rural businesses are in high demand, and these businesses also can only benefit from improved connectivity to more regional, statewide, national and international customers.

On our own, and through coalitions like the Northern Virginia Chamber Partnership, and the Northern Virginia Transportation Coalition, the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce has fought for nearly a decade to focus attention and resources on untangling northern Virginia's, not just Loudoun County's, critically congested roads. We have long understood that Loudoun County is not an island unto itself; and a stronger Loudoun County economy, and world class quality of life, demands that we get people and goods moving around our region as efficiently as possible.

For us, the argument is simple; if our strategic regional transportation network doesn't function, our local transportation network will never function, no matter how much money we pour into it. We must have a strong regional transportation framework. I-66 is a key corridor in that framework. It must be fixed. It must be fixed now. It must be fixed right.



A corridor of such critical importance and in such critical condition – a significant portion of peak period roadway miles already operates under heavily congested conditions – requires a big, bold solution. The plan for I-66 should provide the greatest, long-term, multi-modal flexibility possible. We should not view this opportunity as a least we can do effort but any opportunity to provide the next and last fix for a major interstate that connects Virginia’s largest and fastest growing communities with our nation’s Capital and the I-81 corridor – one of the nation’s most heavily travelled north-south freight and travel corridor.

In closing, I again urge you to move as expeditiously as possible to upgrade I-66. I also urge you to support a final design for I-66 that incorporate sufficient right-of-way for a lasting solution; which means – conventional lanes, managed lanes and a hardened shoulder along with reserved median space for potential future transit extensions. Upgrading I-66 is long overdue and this investment in our northern Virginia regional transportation infrastructure is essential to our Loudoun County and our region’s future economic competitiveness and quality of life.

Mr. Secretary, members of the Board, thank you for your time.