

The Honorable W. Sheppard Miller III
July 19, 2022
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- There are Site Specific Plan Amendments (SSPA's) that are currently being conducted for the redevelopment of land along the southern side of the Beltway (along Oakwood Road) that could be impacted by the I-495 SEL Study if the project intended to widen the Beltway outside of the existing right-of-way. Advanced coordination and outreach efforts are needed when impact to the right-of-way is further identified.

“North Gateway Study” Route 1 Traffic Congestion – Morning/Afternoon Peak Period Woodrow Wilson Bridge

- Northbound Richmond Highway traffic destined for eastbound I-495 routinely causes congestion issues at the intersection of Richmond Highway and Fort Hunt Road. Many Mount Vernon residents raised their concerns about this during the engagement process for the Special Exception Amendment in the Huntington Metro area. The Board would like to ensure that the I-495 SEL Project addresses the congestion on northbound Richmond Highway approaching the Beltway as part of the improvements implemented with the I-495 SEL Project.

Comprehensive Plan and Trails Plan – In General

- As I-495 SEL Study progresses and alternatives are assessed, the Board would like to reiterate the importance that VDOT include projects included in Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan (Trails Plan) as well as recommendations and mitigations that have come out of those studies along the southside of I-495 such as the Huntington Area Metro Study (HATS) in the project. These improvements should include the implementation of a trail along the stretch of I-495 that would connect to the pedestrian bridge across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, as well as other County trails that are close in proximity to I-495 to allow for an expansive, interconnected trail system.

County staff previously provided comments (Attachment A) during the Methodologies phase of this Environmental Assessment (EA) process to meet VDOT's deadline and indicated the areas where County staff wanted to be considered as the Study progresses.

Fairfax County appreciates the work that has been undertaken to date in this project and the opportunity to provide comments. We also look forward to working closely with the Commonwealth and developing a mutually beneficial project to County residents and the region.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sean Schweitzer of the Department of Transportation at: Sean.Schweitzer@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-877-5843.

Sincerely,

Jeffery McKay
Chairman