COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



COUNTY OF FAIRFAX



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6121 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310

RODNEY L. LUSK LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Dear Mr. Beacher, Mrs. Llana,

5/4/2022

Thank you for the time you have spent on the Telegraph Road at Hayfield Road Spot Improvement project. I am writing to you in follow up to the recent comment period, a letter we recently received from the Hayfield Citizens Association, and a meeting I had with the association. As discussed at our last meeting, the next agreed upon step is for VDOT to conduct an additional survey using MetroQuest in order to gather a larger swath of feedback. I have some requests regarding the details of that survey as well as some requests responding to citizen feedback.

First, I am trying to better understand the timeline and methodology for this surveying process. When do you anticipate the questions being available for review? How many households and which neighborhoods are being contacted, and how long it will take to review and analyze the results of this survey? Additionally, we heard many concerns from residents about the safety of pedestrians, especially children, and are concerned about the additional lanes of cars that would be introduced. In response, I request that VDOT present myself and Chairman McKay with an alternative version of the project that removes the additional lane components and focuses solely on improving pedestrian safety at this intersection. We are hoping you will consider aspects such as adding a pedestrian island, shortening the crosswalk lengths, adding bike lanes, installing "No Turn on Red" signs, and other pedestrian safety improvements at the intersection that can be achieved without any widening of the road. We'd like to request that this option also be available for comment as a part of the MetroQuest survey for residents to review and comment on. An additional option we request to be included is a "No Build" preference, so that residents who feel that any version of the project was unnecessary could make that clear.

In the recent letter from the Hayfield Citizens Association, which is attached, they discuss their concern regarding what they see as a lack of stormwater or environmental analysis. In response, I am requesting that VDOT conduct an initial analysis of the potential stormwater impacts of the various design options, as well as mitigation methods that could be employed. If there are other environmental concerns, such as potential tree loss, that are notable, we would appreciate any details on those as well.

The letter also presses the safety of the students and families who routinely cross Telegraph Road to attend the nearby schools. As you likely remember, this was a major concern of mine and other elected officials when we met with VDOT to review the project design last year. This is an important concern that I understand well. My own daughter attends Hayfield Secondary and I feel that concern for the safety of our children deeply. As such, I am requesting that VDOT conduct a safety review and explain the

ways in which the various design options account for the safety for our students and families who are crossing or walking near this intersection.

Another concern I heard through the public feedback is that the initial traffic study that was used to prove out the potential efficiency improvements of this project are now out-of-date. I request that VDOT conduct another study at this intersection to evaluate the current traffic conditions, and to provide an analysis as to how the various alternative designs would impact congestion and to what degree. It would be my expectation to send the results of this survey to the public, so it will likely need to be in a digestible format. Safety is a major concern for the residents, and we would like to be clear about the potential benefits of the proposed changes.

Finally, I wanted to share my hope for a timeline regarding the project. It is important to have the studies completed and available on the project webpage before the survey is dispersed to the public so they can provide us with accurate feedback. My hope is to have the survey completed by the end October of this year and to have a decision before the end of the year. With the requested information, I believe the Chairman and I will have the necessary information to make an informed decision on the future of the project.

I would appreciate your response to this letter in writing by June 1st, 2022. I again thank you and your teams for your work on this project on behalf of the people of the Lee District. Your partnership is vital in creating a better and safer community. If you have any additional questions, you are welcome to contact my office any time.

Sincerely,

Rodney L. Lusk,

Lee District Supervisor

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