



March 14, 2011

The Honorable Sean T. Connaughton, Chairman
Commonwealth Transportation Board
1111 East Broad Street, Room
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Secretary Connaughton:

The Committee for Dulles requests that the Commonwealth Transportation Board designate the Bi-County and Tri-County Parkways as Corridors of Statewide Significance and to initiate the necessary studies and actions to protect required rights of way and ultimately construct both facilities.

The need for additional north-south multi-modal capacity and the benefits of both Parkways have been well-documented by the Commonwealth's 2005 Tri-County Parkway Location Study and other analysis. Both parkways appear on local comprehensive land use and transportation plans.

Northern Virginia is the nation's most congested region in large part due to the failure to complete a previously planned transportation grid. Most planned radial connections to our metropolitan region's core have been completed; many essential north south links have not. The result, as recently confirmed by a national study, is that our radial corridors are overwhelmed by traffic for lack of alternatives.

Washington Dulles International Airport is widely acknowledged to be a major economic engine for the Commonwealth and, in particular, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties. However, the Airport's ability to fulfill its potential is heavily dependent upon improved accessibility for passengers, freight and workers from the north and south. The Bi-County and Tri-County Parkways are key missing links.

Job creation and sustained regional prosperity are heavily dependent upon a mobile and accessible work force. Loudoun and Prince William Counties are among Virginia's fastest growing communities. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments projects that much of the region's future population and job growth will occur in or adjacent to these counties. Attracting and keeping cutting edge employers requires improved north-south connectivity.

Such facilities also will help move people out of harm's way in the event of homeland security emergency

In short, Corridor of Statewide Significance designation for the Bi-County and Tri-County Parkway is essential to improved regional mobility, quality of life, long-term prosperity and security. The Committee for Dulles respectfully requests the Commonwealth Transportation Board to award such designation at its March 16, 2011 meeting.

Sincerely,



Richard McCary
President