



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Michelle Shropshire
P.E. VDOT Northern Virginia Megaprojects Director
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

June 2, 2025

**RE: MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (MVCCA)
Resolution on the Proposed 495 Southside Express Lanes (MVCCA PS&T and E&R, Joint
Resolution 2025-01)**

Dear Ms. Shropshire,

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) has reviewed the information provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on the Proposed 495 Southside Express Lanes and has provided our comments in the attached resolution.

The MVCCA includes about 40 community association members, and we routinely review and comment on County public transportation and environmental projects affecting residents of the Mount Vernon District. We have a number of concerns about the potential negative impact to traffic flow at already congested intersections in our district as well as the absence of a scenario that evaluates Metro inclusion. We have delineated our concerns in the attached resolution and we ask that these concerns be considered and that no option be pursued that further aggravates congestion at the proposed Express Lane egress points in the Mount Vernon District. We welcome questions and thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,

Scott Taylor
Co-chair, MVCCA

**cc: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Senator Scott Surovell
Delegate Paul Krizek**

Attachment: Resolution

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (MVCCA)
Resolution on the Proposed 495 Southside Express Lanes (MVCCA PS&T and E&R,
Joint Resolution 2025-01)

WHEREAS the Transportation and Public Safety Committee (PS&T) and the Environment and Recreation Committee (E&R) of the MVCCA reviews and comments on County public transportation and environmental projects affecting residents of the Mount Vernon District; and

WHEREAS the Proposed 495 Southside Express Lanes will affect residents of and visitors to the Mount Vernon District; and

WHEREAS the materials shared in the public meetings reported that funding for Metrorail will be years off and that express lanes would support road improvements and provide some additional revenue; and

WHEREAS while the analysis presented generally showed that the express lanes with bus service would improve traffic flow, the analysis also showed situations where the express lanes would not improve traffic flow; and

WHEREAS the dedicated lanes on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge were initially reserved for rail, a decision rooted in encouraging public transportation, and rail transit is essential for reducing road congestion, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting sustainable urban development; and

WHEREAS because Metrorail would move far more people than buses and express lanes, options for Metrorail are important to consider at every stage; and

WHEREAS traffic already regularly backs up along Fort Hunt Road and Route 1 approaching Interstate 495, especially during the evening rush hour; and

WHEREAS the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and other parties should have a legally enforceable commitment to conversion to Metrorail in the future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that scenarios with high levels of traffic, especially high traffic scenarios that resulted in lower traffic speeds with the no-build option, should be evaluated with Metro inclusion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that comparisons should be made between scenarios with Metrorail and buses to evaluate differences in travel time and the ability to transport passengers (for purposes of the comparison, transfer stations near the Huntington and VanDorn metro stations could be employed); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should express lanes be pursued, no option should be considered or built that will aggravate congestion, such as crossing local lanes over a short distance to reach express lanes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VDOT should provide an analysis of the impact of added express lanes on local roads, including U.S. 1, Telegraph Road and Van Dorn Street.

Approved by the MVCCA Members o May 28, 2025