

MVCCA RESOLUTION TRANS 2009-01

Improvement of Traffic Flow and Provision for Mass Transit On Richmond Highway

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors applied the Highway Corridor Overlay District to the land along Richmond Highway (US 1) upon concluding that the major purpose of the Richmond Highway was to carry through traffic; and

WHEREAS, congestion during rush hours and on weekends is compromising Richmond Highway's ability both to carry through traffic and to host profitable commercial activity; and

WHEREAS, continued growth of Federal Government employment in the region, the Base Realignment and Closure process, the new Fort Belvoir Hospital and the U.S. Army Museum project will further increase traffic along Richmond Highway; and

WHEREAS, Richmond Highway is the "relief valve" whenever there is an accident or traffic tie-up on Interstate 95;

WHEREAS, the Level of Service (LOS) currently is already rated LOS F at certain times and locations along Richmond Highway, such as the stretch of US 1 from Route 235 (S) to the Fairfax County Parkway, and Telegraph Road to Interstate 95; and

WHEREAS, VDOT and FCDOT have conducted extensive planning for widening all of Richmond Highway, from the City of Alexandria to Prince William County, to a minimum of six lanes; and

WHEREAS, in recognition that obtaining a wider right-of-way (ROW) will impair prospects to widen Richmond Highway now, incremental widening of US 1 should occur to provide 6 free flow lanes of traffic (3 lanes in each direction with a median for dedicated left turn lanes) while still providing for the retail/businesses that exist along Richmond Highway;

WHEREAS, citizens have requested a Richmond Highway transit study for the corridor for many years; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 Richmond Highway Centerline Study determined that long-term demands on Richmond Highway may ultimately require a wider ROW to provide for surface mass transit, six lanes of free-flowing traffic, sidewalks, trails and landscaped buffers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations urge the Commonwealth Transportation Board, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, FCDOT, and VDOT to act to secure funding to complete the widening of Richmond Highway to six lanes from Buckman Road (North) to Prince William County (This configuration could be about the same as the recently widened stretch near Telegraph and Pohick Roads intersections and include closing excessive curb cuts and adding medians and turn and acceleration lanes where appropriate).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VDOT undertake a Richmond Highway Rail Mass Transit Study that would explore and compare the feasibility and utility of all rail mass transit options to include lower cost monorail/moonbeam systems, as well as light rail and

current Metrorail options for informed longer term planning of the future of Richmond Highway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors retains in the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan the current future concept of a wider Richmond Highway ROW that includes a wide mass transit median with turn lanes plus six lanes of travel lanes plus sidewalks/trails, and landscaping in order to guide planning for a far distant future when regional growth provides the need, opportunity (revitalization) and means to further enhance the Richmond Highway Corridor.

This resolution was approved by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations at their General Membership Council Meeting September 17, 2009