

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SUPPORT ADVANCEMENT OF ALTERNATIVE F;
ELIMINATING ALTERNATIVE G FROM THE LONG-TERM ROAD
IMPROVEMENT ANALYSIS SCOPE OF WORK

ISSUE: Request to support advancement of Alternative F and elimination of Alternative G from the Scope for Long Range Road Improvements Analysis related to the BRAC-133 Project.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Support the recent action by VDOT to advance implementation of an HOV/transit ramp at Seminary Road and I-395, which is Alternative F (Attachment 1); and
- (2) Eliminate Alternative G (Attachment 2) which would drastically slow the construction schedule, have adverse aesthetic impacts and double construction costs.

DISCUSSION: VDOT has been conducting an analysis of Long Term Road Improvements to mitigate the traffic impacts of the BRAC-133 facility being constructed at the Mark Center, which is due to open on September 15, 2011. Various studies have demonstrated the likely adverse impacts on traffic operations of this facility, with 6,400 personnel arriving and leaving daily. In a letter dated February 2, 2011 (Attachment 3) VDOT announced its decision to advance and fund the construction of an HOV/transit ramp at the Seminary Road and I-395 interchange, consistent with Alternative F. VDOT is recommending elimination of Alternative G, and for the following reasons:

1. The necessary environmental studies and design would require an additional 3-6 months
2. The additional cost for Alternative G is estimated to be \$100 million
3. The aesthetic impacts of a flyover at this location

With the elimination of Alternative G from further analysis, VDOT expects the construction of the HOV/transit ramp at Seminary Road and I-395 will begin in 2012. VDOT has requested that Council support elimination of Alternative G from further analysis. Staff supports that request.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Alternative F

Attachment 2: Alternative G

Attachment 3: Letter from Secretary Connaughton

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, Director, T&ES

Abi Lerner, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES

David B. Grover, BRAC Coordinator, T&ES