

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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11-26-02

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 22, 2002

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER <sup>PS</sup>

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ELIMINATE PLANS TO CONSTRUCT HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE ACCESS RAMPS ON INTERSTATE 395 IN ALEXANDRIA

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a Resolution to request that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) eliminate plans to construct high occupancy vehicle (HOV) access ramps on Interstate 395 in Alexandria.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council adopt the attached resolution (Attachment 1) requesting that VDOT eliminate plans to construct HOV access ramps on Interstate 395 at Seminary Road, King Street or Duke Street.

**DISCUSSION:** On June 11, 1996, City Council adopted a resolution requesting that VDOT establish a project to undertake preliminary engineering for the construction of high occupancy vehicle access ramps on Interstate 395 at Seminary Road.

A "I-95/I-395 High Occupancy Vehicle Restriction Study" recently completed by VDOT considered adding HOV access ramps at Seminary Road. The study also looked at the feasibility of adding HOV ramps at Duke Street and King Street, and a fly-over ramp just south of Edsall Road.

In this study, VDOT concluded that HOV ramps could be constructed at Seminary Road and King Street, and that a fly-over could be built just south of Edsall Road. It did not recommend constructing ramps at Duke Street because of the present design of the interchange and the large amount of highway right-of-way that would be needed to construct the ramps. VDOT analyzed the costs for the alternative locations and other factors, and determined access ramps at Seminary Road to be the preferred alternative. This determination was based primarily upon construction costs, ease of construction and the amount of a.m. peak hour HOV traffic exiting I-395.

However, staff's review of the VDOT study indicates that the primary destinations of HOV traffic using HOV ramps at Seminary Road were Crystal City, the Pentagon and Potomac Yard. After further review, it became evident that access ramps at Seminary Road would result in Seminary Road conveying substantial cut through traffic on its way to destinations outside Alexandria. Staff's further analysis concluded that some of this cut through traffic would filter through the City's local street network. After many meetings with VDOT staff, City staff could not support HOV ramps at Seminary Road.

Since the Seminary Road HOV ramps would create additional cut-through traffic on City arterials and would potentially create cut through traffic in our neighborhoods, staff recommends that Council request VDOT not to construct any HOV ramps on Interstate 395 at Seminary Road. We also recommend that the City advise VDOT that the City does not support HOV ramps at King Street or Duke Street.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1. Resolution No. 1793

Attachment 2. Programming Resolution

**STAFF:**

Richard J. Baier, Director, T&ES

Tom Culpepper, Deputy Director, T&ES

Emily Baker, City Engineer, T&ES

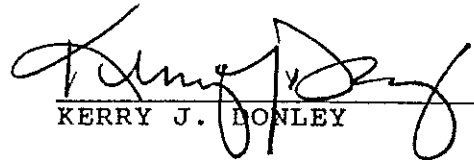
## RESOLUTION NO. 1793

WHEREAS, in accordance with Virginia Department of Transportation allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by Council resolution be made in order that the Department program a \*Congestion Mitigation Air Quality project in the City of Alexandria;

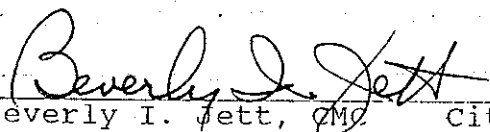
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, requests the Virginia Department of Transportation establish a project for the preliminary engineering for High Occupancy Vehicle access to Seminary Road at Interstate 395 from points south of Alexandria; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Alexandria is not required to provide local match for this project in accordance with Section 33.1-44 of the Code of Virginia. If the City of Alexandria subsequently elects to cancel this project, the City of Alexandria hereby agrees to reimburse the Virginia Department of Transportation for the total amount of the costs expended by the Department through the date the Department is notified of such cancellation.

ADOPTED: June 11, 1996

  
KERRY J. DONLEY MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
Beverly I. Jett, *CMC* City Clerk

\*At the Regular Meeting on June 25, 1996, City Council amended, by a Roll-Call vote, this resolution to correct a typographical error.

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by City Council resolution be made in order that the Department program Regional Surface Transportation Program projects in the City of Alexandria;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City Alexandria, Virginia, requests the Virginia Department eliminate from further consideration the proposed construction of High Occupancy Vehicle Ramp from Seminary Road, King Street or Duke Street in Alexandria.

ADOPTED:

**KERRY J. DONLEY**

**MAYOR**

ATTEST:

**Beverly I. Jett, CMC**

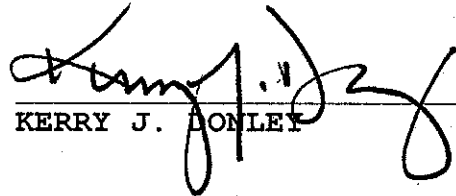
City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2048

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Virginia Department of Transportation allocation procedures, it is necessary that a request by City Council resolution be made in order that the Department program Regional Surface Transportation Program projects in the City of Alexandria;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City Alexandria, Virginia, requests the Virginia Department of Transportation eliminate from further consideration the proposed construction of a High Occupancy Vehicle ramp at Seminary Road, King Street or Duke Street in Alexandria.

ADOPTED: November 22, 2002

  
KERRY J. DONLEY MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk

EXHIBIT NO. 2

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11-26-02



Oldjugman@aol.com

11/23/02 09:18 AM

To: MayorALX@aol.com @ INTERNET, billclev@comcast.net @  
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DSpeck@aol.com @ INTERNET

Subject: The No-Ramp at Seminary Road Resolution

TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Once again West End neighborhoods are being threatened by the highway builders.

This time it is VDOT that wants to build an HOV ramp carrying north-bound traffic on

I-395. Our Transportation Director, Rich Baier, is opposing the interchange, arguing as we in Seminary Hill do, that such a development threatens to dump large amounts of traffic on Seminary Road, particularly at peak hours.

Living, as I do, immediately off Seminary Road, it is clear that traffic on that street has increased significantly in the past few years. Right now the back up in the right lane on Seminary Road heading east at Quaker often means waiting through two lights. It will not be long before the City will be contemplating addition of a right turn lane at that spot.

The addition of the HOV ramp (which would be open to all vehicles at many times of the day) clearly is one additional way of opening the West End to a large additional influx of Fairfax county "cut-through" traffic. That must not happen. On Tuesday you will be asked to take a roll-call vote to Request VDOT to discontinue further study of the ramp. Please support the best interests of our community and vote "YES" on the resolution. Jack Sullivan