

Testimony presented by Carl Iddings on behalf of Lafayette Village  
Community Association  
to the Commonwealth Transportation Board

January 13, 2009

Good evening, Mr. Secretary and members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board. I appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight on the Six Year Improvement Program Revisions you are considering.

I am Carl Iddings, representing the Lafayette Village Community Association. We are a Homeowners Association of 315 town homes and detached homes adjacent to the Beltway just north of Little River Turnpike, Rte. 236. As an association, we have been very actively involved in the effort to ensure the impact of the HOT Lanes on our community is minimized. Accordingly, I am speaking in support of fully funding the HOT Lanes PPTA and adding additional funds to the I-495 HOT Lanes Support line items.

Our Association has been actively involved in previous hearings and meetings addressing the need to improve the HOT Lanes noise abatement measures proposed for our community. We have taken the following steps to express our concerns:

1. We offered testimony at the initial Design public hearings held in May
2. More than 50 of our residents submitted written testimony to the public record, representing over a third of all comments submitted.
3. We requested the VDOT project manager and his staff address our association's semi-annual meeting also held in May, at which time we past a resolution declaring among other things that:
  - a. We want the sound barrier along the beltway adjacent to our community to be continuous between Little River Turnpike and Gallows Road;
  - b. Noise abatement standards should address the noise levels at the second and third stories of our town homes, which are the main living quarters of our residences.
4. We also have consistently expressed our concerns about the destruction of trees and greenery that would occur as a consequence of the construction.

As a result of our concerns, in July 2008, the Association contracted with Wyle Laboratories to perform a sound study in our community to assess independently the sound barrier design proposed in the EIS. Our sound study showed that:

1. Year 2030 sound levels will exceed VDOT's 66db design standard for the home at 4020 Lafayette Village Drive.
2. Year 2030 sound levels will exceed significantly Fairfax County noise reduction standards, affecting a number of residences both in our community and in the residences to north of Lafayette Village.

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3. Relatively small increases of two to six feet in the height of the proposed sound barriers would allow these barriers to meet Fairfax County standards.

Based on the results of our sound study and the experience we have the HOT Lanes construction to date, we ask that additional state funds be added to the project to achieve the following:

1. We want a continuous sound barrier along the Beltway between Little River Turnpike and Gallows Road. We believe that design will ensure that the next two points will be met.
2. We want the sound barriers to be redesigned to conform to Fairfax County noise abatement standards for new road construction. Our sound study suggests this can be accomplished with relatively small increases in the height of the proposed sound walls.
3. We want sound abatement measurements to conform to the Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) standard rather than the VDOT loudest-hour sound level standard, particularly with respect to the second and third floor levels of the townhomes in our community.
4. We want sound barrier walls to be landscaped at least on the Lafayette Village side of the barrier, and preferably on both sides. The massive loss of vegetation and especially trees must be replaced as part of the project. This will enhance both the esthetics of the project and will assist in improving the air quality around the project.

We believe that these requests are consistent with Secretary Homer's pledge reported in the November 22, 2008 **Washington Post** "to replant the staging areas that have been cleared and to install sound walls beyond minimum federal standards along certain parts of the corridor." Given this pledge, fulfilling our requests would be an appropriate use of some of the additional funds our Association is supporting with this testimony.

The Board of Directors of the Lafayette Village Community Association passed a resolution unanimously last night at its regular January meeting endorsing these points.