

April 28, 2011

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
4031 University Drive
Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Subject: Planning Process Concerns on the Transaction 2040 Regional Transportation Plan

Dear Chairman Nohe and members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority:

The Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (The Federation) has concerns with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's planning process for the Transaction 2040 regional transportation plan. We find that the proposed update:

- Is underfunded at \$500,000
- Is limited to just one model run and does not consider alternatives and demand management solutions
- Does not incorporate alternatives analysis or land use, and specifically lacks transit, land use, housing and energy efficiency alternatives
- Limits the opportunity for meaningful public involvement and comment

We question whether this process reflects all of the knowledge gained through scenario analyses accomplished by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG). We ask that it reflect the regional commitment to sustainability goals found in the *Region Forward Compact*, which was signed by all 22 jurisdictions in the MWCOCG. Those goals included transit-oriented development, mixed-use, mixed-income communities, affordable housing and affordable transportation. The update process fails to recognize that transportation revenues are likely to be limited for decades to come due to our national debt, seriously deferred maintenance and obsolescence of existing infrastructure, and the critical need to invest our scarce resources toward a more energy efficient economy.

Therefore, we urge you to take the following steps:

- Increase the Transaction 2040 budget to \$1.5 million utilizing additional funds made available by the Governor and General Assembly during this session. It makes no sense to borrow \$3 billion, without spending enough money on rigorous planning, alternatives and prioritization analysis.
- Expand the public participation component of the effort, maximizing both on-line outreach and outreach to the diversity of northern Virginia communities, including lower income communities. In the near term, there must also be better public information on the website including posting of the members of your advisory committees and their affiliations along with the minutes of their meetings.

Nearly every member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority has recognized and committed to transit-oriented, mixed-use, walkable communities and to multimodal transportation solutions. Therefore, we hope that you will take steps to expand and improve the Transaction 2040 planning process.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you about improvements to the Transaction 2040 planning process.

Sincerely,

/s/

Tania Hossain
President
Fairfax Federation