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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
June 14, 2010

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Sean Connaughton
Secretary
Virginia Department of Transportation
PO Box 1475
Richmond VA 23218

Dear Sean

I write today regarding VDOT's plans to construct dual turn lanes at the intersection of Route 7 and Georgetown Pike as well as the entire reconfiguration of this intersection. As you may recall from my January 26 letter, I have heard from many constituents expressing their concerns that these extended and widened turn lanes will increase the volume on an already busy Georgetown Pike. There are also concerns about the need to maintain the historic roadbed. In addition to the opposition of citizens, the local delegate, senator and Fairfax County supervisor all oppose these plans. I share this opposition to the widened turn lanes and realignment of the intersection.

I recognize the need to widen Route 7 and support the overall widening project, as do the citizens, which will promote better traffic flow. I have long been involved in working on solutions to improve Route 7. I secured over \$10 million in federal funding for Route 7 improvements from Tysons Corner to Leesburg, including a traffic light synchronization project. I understand Route 7 operates at "Level F" during rush hour, which VDOT defines as forced traffic flow in which the amount of traffic approaching a point exceeds the amount that can be served. This is why I have been deeply involved not only in working on improvements to Route 7, but also fighting the exorbitant tolls on the Dulles Greenway because lower Greenway tolls offer an alternative to Route 7 for commuters from Loudoun.

Throughout my service in Congress when working to promote transportation improvements, my first priority has always been to help ensure that the citizens affected were protected. I recently met with citizens of Great Falls, representing the McLean Citizens Association as well as themselves, who have legitimate concerns about the realignment of the intersection at Route 7 and Georgetown Pike, which poses a risk of flooding Georgetown Pike with daily traffic that it cannot handle and destroying the neighborhoods along the way. For some in these neighborhoods, Georgetown Pike is the only access from their homes. Many also have concerns about the extended effect of these plans on Old Dominion Drive and the Langley areas. Citizens and businesses of McLean, Loudoun County, and the Tysons area also are interested in the remaining six to seven miles of Route 7 between the Dulles Toll Road and the Fairfax County Parkway, which is to be widened to six lanes.

All concerned recognize the importance of the overall VDOT project, named "Rt 7 - Widening to Six Lanes," and concur with Fairfax County in pushing for a widening project to

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move forward. I respectfully ask, however, that you work to support these affected communities in the reasonable and justifiable concerns they have raised, cancel the realignment of the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Route 7 portion of this project, and focus the funding instead on widening Route 7.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:cr

THIS IS IMPORTANT.

I thank you.