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January 13, 2015

The Honorable Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.
Secretary of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Honorable Secretary Layne:

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors would like to express its appreciation to the Governor of Virginia, the Secretary of Transportation and the staff at the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for their continued support and the effective implementation of the Route 29 Solutions Package. Further, as reflected by the majority vote multiple times this year (5-1 in favor), the Board of Supervisors maintains its support for these projects.

Our community has benefited greatly from the enhanced and thorough engagement process VDOT has established with the Solutions Package. As occurs with many major transportation projects, the community understandably has a range of questions and concerns. Even though these queries come from a variety of perspectives, and some have been generated from misleading information, VDOT staff and Philip Shucet have been very receptive, consistent and inclusive in responding. The result of this approach is comprehensive information that better informs the community.

Also, the Board of Supervisors continues to recognize the importance of building the Rio Road/US29 Grade Separated Interchange first, and we support an expedited process to minimize disruption to neighborhoods and businesses. We also recognize that VDOT will need help from the Board to ensure that accurate and timely information continues to be available to the community and the majority of our Board members remain committed to providing this assistance.

The Albemarle Board of Supervisors asks that VDOT continue its open and thorough process of engagement. Once a contractor is selected and construction is more imminent, our community expects to remain highly engaged as the details become more clearly defined.. As VDOT moves into the next steps of the projects, we hope it will continue to find new ways to engage, inform and listen to the opinions of our residents.

Please share this letter and our appreciation with Governor McAuliffe and VDOT Commissioner Kilpatrick for the commitment to the Albemarle County community and for providing the necessary resources to implement the Route 29 Solutions Package.

Sincerely,

Jane D. Dittmar, Chair

JDD/ewj