REPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ON

Increased Public Transportation Across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and in the Capital Beltway Corridor

TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 39

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
1994

House Joint Resolution No. 640 of the 1993 Session of the Virginia General Assembly requested the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to study increased public transportation across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and in the Capital Beltway corridor. The Virginia Department of Transportation has formed a Woodrow Wilson Bridge Coordinating Committee to provide policy guidance to a corridor-based study of traffic on the beltway.

Staff of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation now participate in the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, serving on the Traffic Committee which advises the Policy Committee. They will continue working through this committee to advance public transportation in the corridor.

On October 19, 1993 Secretary of Transportation John G. Milliken wrote The Honorable Marian Van Landingham concerning this matter. This letter is attached and concludes this report.

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

John G. Milliken
Secretary of Transportation

Office of the Governor
Richmond 23219

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October 19, 1993

The Honorable Marian Van Landingham
City Hall, 301 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Marian:

House Joint Resolution 640 directed the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to study increased public transportation across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and in the Capital Beltway corridor.

As you can appreciate, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge replacement is a complex project and a potential transit system across the bridge is just one part. The DRPT has reviewed the studies completed to date which projected traffic volumes and their likely origins and destinations. They have also formulated a possible transit project that has potential to attract significant ridership. It is now necessary to analyze this potential solution using regional models that are adjusted to account for unique features of the transit corridor. This task is beyond the capabilities of current DRPT staff.

The Woodrow Wilson Coordination Committee, of which you are a member, has commissioned a corridor-based study of traffic for the beltway. This study, to be conducted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) staff, will use round 5.0 land use forecasts. These updated forecasts will be the basis for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge traffic forecasting work, and will also be used in other beltway study work. We think it is important to the overall effort that all analysis work on the bridge and potential transit use this same forecast as a basis. Round 5.0 forecasts will likely be available in January, 1994. After consultation with the DRPT Director Leo J. Bevon and VDOT Commissioner Ray D. Pethtel, it is my recommendation that MWCOG also be requested to perform the necessary transit analysis for the Woodrow Wilson project.

If you concur in this recommendation, we will make the necessary arrangements to ensure its completion.

The Honorable Marian Van Landingham
October 19, 1993
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The resolution, which you sponsored, called upon DRPT to complete this important work and report to the 1994 Session of the General Assembly. The complexity of the analysis will not allow them to meet that deadline; however, DRPT will work to assure this study remains focused on increasing public transportation across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and in the Capital Beltway corridor as requested.

If you agree that this is an appropriate way to proceed, I would appreciate your so informing the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you at any time or to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

John G. Milliken

JGM/cmg

cc: Mr. Leo J. Bevon
     Mr. Ray D. Pethtel
     Mr. Claude D. Garver
     Mr. Richard C. Seaman
     Mr. James J. Regimbal