

**Statement by Delegate Dave LaRock**

**Revised Statewide Six-Year Improvement Program**

**October 16, 2014**

It is my understanding that revisions to the Program adopted in June, 2014 are necessitated by the passage of House Bill 2 that requires certain projects be vetted through a prioritization process. As a co-patron of HB 2, I support this effort to ensure that scarce transportation funding be focused on the projects that will best address the congestion problems plaguing Northern Virginia.

In reviewing the revised draft FY 2015 – FY 2020 Six Year Plan it appears that state funding in the later years of the Plan was removed from the interchange at the Route 15 Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road. This project should fare well in scoring high as it relates to congestion relief. It is my hope that the HB 2 vetting will show this interchange should be a top priority for funding and possibly have the CTB consider funding it sooner in the Program than what is currently programmed.

The Route 15 Bypass and Edwards Ferry Road interchange was programmed for \$4 million in state funding in the draft FY 2015 – FY 2020 Six Year Plan, \$2 million each in FY2019 and FY 2020. The Final FY 2015 – FY 2020 Six Year Plan reduced funding by \$2 million by eliminating the \$2 million in FY2019 from the project. Now the revised draft eliminates final \$2 million programmed in FY2020.

This project is very important to Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg. The Route 15 Bypass and its intersections become “mixing bowls” for interstate and regional through traffic and local traffic, with an AADT of upwards of 50,000. It is not unusual, particularly during the PM peaks hours, to have traffic backed up for miles trying to get through this intersection. Moreover, the Route 15 Bypass at Edwards Ferry Road bears a large volume of pedestrian traffic daily between the residential areas inside the Bypass and the commercial development outside the Bypass – posing a significant immediate safety risk. The Town is currently constructing some interim measures to address the significant congestion. However, those measures will provide marginal improvement for a short timeframe. An interchange is sorely needed to move the traffic through the Town of Leesburg and to provide a safer environment for pedestrians.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the CTB. We appreciate your attention and dedication to this pressing issue.