



I-66 Outside the Beltway Public Comments

July 13, 2017

Submitting comments pursuant to the June 14, 2017, I-66 Outside the Beltway public meeting:

Representing Friends of Accotink Creek, we would like to state:

- *Our objection to tree loss without mitigation*
- *Our objection to outdated stormwater control standards*
- *Our objection to transit as an afterthought, rather than a leading element in any transportation project*

We would like to point out, that four years after completion of the 495 Express Lanes, we are struggling to correct erosion control and landscaping shortcomings that did not meet minimum standards. We fully expect to face the same situation with the I-66 Express Lanes.

Accotink Creek is a waterway which will be directly and permanently impacted by this project, just as it now continues to be impacted by the 495 Express Lanes.

As Friends of Accotink Creek, our concern is with the loss of habitat and detrimental effects on waterways. Our local jurisdictions are currently spending tens and hundreds of millions to repair the damage to our streams caused by excess erosion due to decades of paving with limited or nonexistent stormwater controls.

It is not too late to design stormwater controls according to current standards that will protect our streams and the Bay and comply with the Chesapeake Bay and Accotink Creek TMDL's.

Expand the concept of the corridor to find opportunities for enhanced stormwater controls outside the right of way, such as installing nearby green roofs and pervious parking lots.

Employ permeable paving wherever possible to permit recharge of aquifers.

Consider the impact on impaired waters in the affected area and their tributaries, including Accotink Creek. Any solution should enhance the health of the waters crossed by I-66, rather than further compromise them.

No net loss of habitat or tree cover should occur in any watershed.

More broadly, our planet is on fire. However much we wish it would go away, global warming is real – it is happening. Yet the volcano spews ever more heat island generating asphalt, hastening us toward the precipice.

"Let us begin with the premise that the automobile must accommodate the earth, rather than vice versa."

The time has arrived to make transit solutions a priority, not an afterthought to road building.

Sincerely yours,

Friends of Accotink Creek :: www.accotink.org ::

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