VII

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman Martin E. Nohe and Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Monica Backmon, Executive Director

DATE: December 6, 2016

SUBJECT: Approval of Comments on the Atlantic Gateway Project

---

1. **Purpose:** To seek approval of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's (NVTA) comments on the Atlantic Gateway Project to be submitted at the December 14, 2016 Public Hearing at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office. The Public Hearing will be held in conjunction with the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) public meeting regarding the Smart Scale Prioritization Process.

2. **Suggestion Action:** *I move Authority approval of the comments on the Atlantic Gateway Project to be submitted at the December 14, 2016 Public Hearing.*

3. **Background:** The Authority submitted a letter of support for the Commonwealth's FASTLANE grant and TIGER application for the Atlantic Gateway Project on April 13 and April 22, 2016, respectively. The Atlantic Gateway Project was selected for a federal FASTLANE grant of $165 million in July 2016.

   USDOT's FASTLANE competitive grant program, is part of a $4.6 billion, 5-year program created by the FAST Act, which was signed into law in December 2015 and makes large-scale national investments to improve freight and highway mobility across the United States.

   The $165 million FASTLANE grant will leverage $565 million in private investments and $710 million in other transportation funds to:

   - Build 14 miles of new rail track to improve reliability and capacity for freight, commuter and passenger rail service, including phase I of the project to unlock rail congestion at Long Bridge.
   - Extend the I-95 Express Lanes for seven miles north to the Potomac River and improve access to the Pentagon.
   - Extend the I-95 Express Lanes 10 miles south to Fredericksburg to alleviate backups at the current southern terminus.

- Construct a new southbound bridge on I-95 across the Rappahannock River.
- Provide dedicated on-going reinvestment in expanded bus service in the corridor to ensure that all populations have access to jobs, education and health care services.
- Add new commuter parking, technology upgrades and truck parking along the corridor.
- Build pavement for autonomous vehicle enhancements; this will provide the infrastructure to test and deploy driverless cars.
- Acquire the S-line, an abandoned rail corridor that runs from North Carolina to the Richmond area, from CSX to provide public ownership of a corridor key for future Southeast High Speed Rail.

Project Goals consist of:

- Resolving critical existing freight and passenger bottlenecks, congestion and safety concerns on the heavily traveled I-95 Corridor.
- Accommodating projected population and employment growth.
- Improving reliability for long distance passenger travelers and freight carriers.
- Enhancing the quality of life in the interregional and national corridor.
- Connecting people to employment opportunities.
- Providing new travel choices throughout the corridor.

In coordination with the Regional and Jurisdiction Agency Coordination Committee, the draft comments (Attachment A) were developed in preparation of the public hearing.

The Authority will be briefed on the Atlantic Gateway Project at its January 2017 meeting. The Authority may want to provide additional comments following the presentation and/or as more details on components are provided as projects advance.

Attachments:

A. Draft Comments on the Atlantic Gateway Project
B. Summary Sheet on the Atlantic Gateway Project

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

December 8, 2016

The Honorable Aubrey L. Layne, Jr.
Secretary of Transportation
Commonwealth of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street, Room 3054
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Reference: Comments on the Atlantic Gateway Project

Dear Secretary Layne:

Thank you for your efforts to improve the I-95/I-395 Corridor through the Atlantic Gateway Project. As you know, congestion along the corridor is significant during the morning and evening peak periods. As this project advances, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (Authority) would like to provide the following comments:

- The Authority understands that Atlantic Gateway is an extremely complex project and includes many components. It is essential that significant coordination occur between the Administration, the Authority, jurisdictions in which the components are located, and other agencies that may be impacted. The Authority feels it will be beneficial if all project components, and segments within those components, be identified as part of the larger project to ensure that stakeholders are aware of what is included within Atlantic Gateway.
- The Authority believes that it is essential that significant community outreach occur during the development of the individual projects within Atlantic Gateway. Many localities, their citizens, and other stakeholders will be impacted by these projects, including landowners, those living near component projects, transit users, and other commuters. Those impacted must be made aware of project details and have the opportunity to provide input.
- The Authority supports efforts to address capacity needs at the Long Bridge, which is a major railroad bottleneck for the Eastern Seaboard. This project is essential to improving rail service, including the region's commuter rail service, the Virginia Railway Express (VRE). The Authority supports efforts to address this choke point across the Potomac River, which will allow for additional VRE and Amtrak trains to use the corridor, as well as expanded intermodal and freight rail service.
- The Authority supports the I-395 Express Lanes annual dedication of at least $15 million to support enhanced transit in the corridor, which is important to ensure that sufficient multimodal options are provided. The Authority would like to note transit needs in the corridor are significant – the I-95/I-395 Transit and TDM Study has identified over $6 billion in projects. While the annual $15 million is

important in addressing these needs, we must also be cognizant that it will not provide all of the funding required to implement and operate these elements. Additionally, the Authority believes that both capital and operations should be considered as part of this process.

- The Authority believes that local jurisdictions and agencies should have input in the selection of regional partner(s) as the Commonwealth determines how these funds will be managed and allocated. The multi-modal needs of the corridor differ throughout the region and the Authority would like to ensure that the needs are addressed comprehensively. This is important, as residents residing both inside and outside the beltway commute along the I-95 and I-395.
- The Authority believes that efforts should be made to ensure ongoing projects are taken into consideration and/or not precluded during this process. Localities may have projects being implemented near Atlantic Gateway components. Coordination of efforts is essential to ensure that these projects are not adversely impacted. Further, the Commonwealth should work with its localities and regional partners, so that relevant planning efforts are also taken into consideration.

Thank you, again, for your leadership in seeking improvements to the I-95/I-395 Corridor. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Monica Backmon, the Authority's Executive Director, at (703) 642-4650 or myself at 703-792-4620.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Nohe
Chairman

DRAFT

VII.B

VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation

www.VirginiaDOT.org
Fredericksburginfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Atlantic Gateway
Partnering to Unlock the I-95 Corridor

Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) public hearing on the Atlantic Gateway projects.

This meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for both citizens and organizations to provide VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed improvements. Your input is important and VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects affecting them.

VDOT representatives and members of the study team are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

A comment sheet is included in the handout for this meeting and your input is encouraged. Verbal comments may also be provided to the court reporter. All verbal and written comments received for this project will be included in a summary report for consideration by VDOT personnel, citizens and other interested parties and will be made available upon request. VDOT staff will address questions and concerns raised as a result of this meeting before the project is presented to the VDOT Chief Engineer or his designee for consideration.

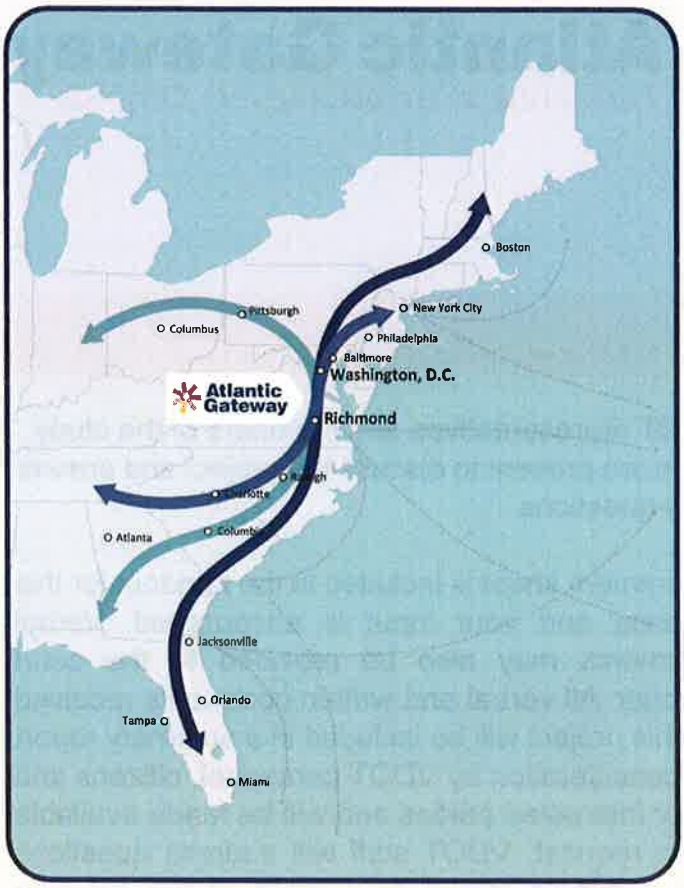
Project Team

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation · DRPT Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation · transurban · CSX · U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration · U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration

Project Goals

- **Resolve critical existing freight and passenger bottlenecks, congestion, and safety concerns on the heavily traveled I-95 corridor**
- **Accomodate projected population and employment growth**
- **Improve reliability for long distance passenger travelers and freight carriers**
- **Enhance the quality of life in this vital interregional and national corridor**
- **Connect people to employment opportunities**
- **Provide new travel choices throughout the corridor**

Project Need



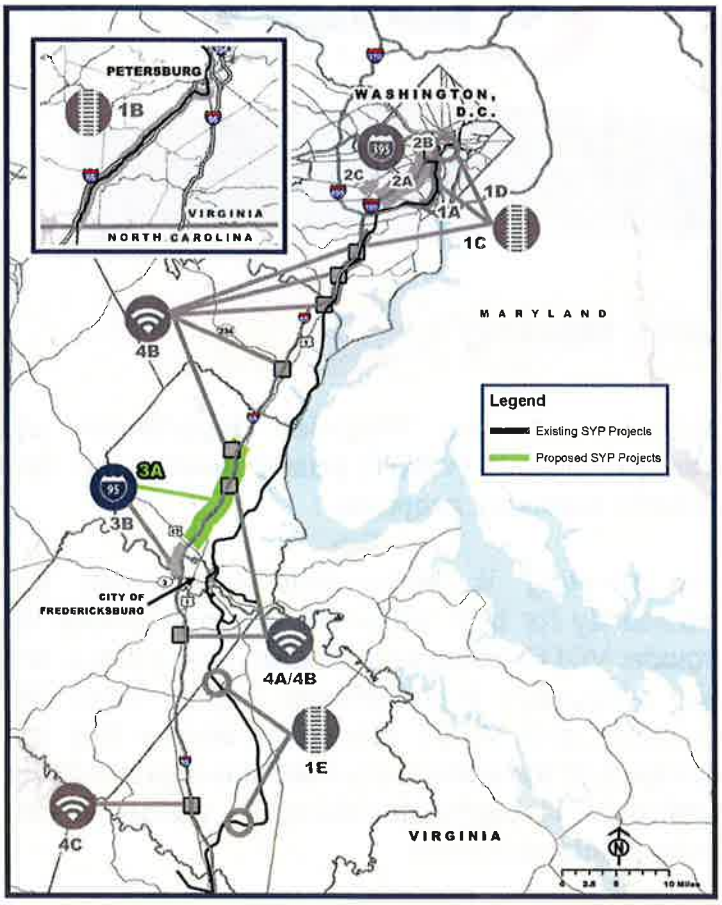
ATLANTIC GATEWAY CORRIDOR CONGESTION
EXISTING CONDITIONS

HIGHWAY	TOTAL ANNUAL CORRIDOR DELAY	13.2 MILLION PERSON-HOURS
TRANSIT	VRE TRAINS AT OR OVER CAPACITY	70%
FREIGHT	FREIGHT DELAY	357 MILLION TON-HOURS

ATLANTIC GATEWAY SIGNIFICANCE
DAILY VOLUMES

CSX CARRIES APPROXIMATELY	83,000 TONS OF FREIGHT
VRE CARRIES APPROXIMATELY	18,000 PEOPLE
TRUCKS CARRY APPROXIMATELY	271,000 TONS OF FREIGHT
CARS AND BUSES CARRY APPROXIMATELY	350,000 PEOPLE
METRORAIL CARRIES APPROXIMATELY	90,000 PEOPLE
AMTRAK CARRIES APPROXIMATELY	4,500 PEOPLE

Project Components



PROJECT COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION
Component 1: Rail Infrastructure	1A Long Bridge–Phase 1 1B Dedicating the S-Line 1C Constructing a Third Main Line Track (Franconia to Occoquan) 1D Engineering for Long Bridge–Phase 2 1E Improving Rail Operations Along the Corridor
Component 2: I-395 Improvements	2A Extending the Express Lanes to the Pentagon 2B Improving Multimodal Access to the Pentagon 2C Providing Safety and Capacity Improvements on I-395 (Duke Street to Edsall Road)
Component 3: I-95 Improvements	3A Extending the Express Lanes to Fredericksburg 3B Adding I-95 Southbound Capacity Across the Rappahannock River
Component 4: Corridor-Wide ITS and TDM Improvements	4A Providing Additional Commuter Parking in Spotsylvania and Stafford County 4B Transportation Technology 4C Rest Area Reconstruction and Truck Parking

Right of Way

As we further develop and finalize the design of these projects, information about the exact location of the easements and right of way limits will be presented to the property owners at project specific public hearings.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure, "Right of Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available this evening from a right of way representative or at:

www.vdot.virginia.gov/business/resources/Right_of_way/A_Guide_for_Property_Owners_and_Tenants.pdf

Project Benefits

Private Sector Investment

State Funding

Federal FASTLANE Grant Funding

Leverages a $1.4 Billion Multi-Modal Program that Delivers:

Virginia's Investment in the Long Bridge (Phase I)

One of the largest Express Lane networks in the country (~50 mi.)

Ongoing revenue reinvestments in enhanced transit service

Project Funding

COMMITTED FUNDING SOURCES

	Funding Partner	Description	Funding Amount	Funding %		
Private Sector	transurban Transurban	Private Sector Partner – Toll Facility Manager/ Operator	$520M	37%	40%	Private Sector
	CSX CSX	Private Sector Partner – Class 1 Railroad Owner/ Operator	$45M	3%		
Virginia	Commonwealth of Virginia Program	Federal Assistance	$247M	18%	44%	Virginia
		State Assistance	$363M	26%		
USDOT Grants	NSFHP	USDOT Grant Program	$200M	14%	16%	USDOT Grants
	TIGER	USDOT Grant Program	$25M	2%		
		TOTALS:	**$1.4B**	**100%**		

USES OF PROJECT FUNDS

Project Component	Description	Eligible Project Cost	NSFHP Funds	TIGER Funds (Pending)	Other Federal Sources	Non-Federal Sources*
	Component 1: Rail Infrastructure					
1A	Long Bridge–Phase 1	$185M	$55M		$82M	$48M
1B	Dedicating the S-Line	$30M				$30M
1C	Constructing a Third Main Line Track (Franconia to Occoquan)	$220M				$220M
1D	Engineering for Long Bridge–Phase 2	$30M	$15M			$15M
1E	Improving Rail Operations Along the Corridor	$30M				$30M
	Component 2: I-395 Improvements					
2A	Extending the Express Lanes to the Pentagon	$250M	$30M			$220M
2B	Improving Multimodal Access to the Pentagon	$10M	$10M			
2C	Providing Safety and Capacity Improvements on I-395 (Duke Street to Edsall Road)	$40M	$40M			
	Component 3: I-95 Improvements					
3A	Extending the Express Lanes to Fredericksburg	$420M	$50M		$50M	$320M
3B	Adding I-95 Southbound Capacity Across the Rappahannock River	$115M			$115M	
	Component 4: Corridor-Wide ITS and TDM Improvements					
4A	Providing Additional Commuter Parking in Spotsylvania and Stafford County	$30M		$15M		$15M
4B	Transportation Technology	$20M		$10M		$10M
4C	Rest Area Reconstruction and Truck Parking	$20M				$20M
	TOTALS:	**$1.4B**	**$200M**	**$25M**	**$247M**	**$928M**

*Includes state and private funds, and a number of financing options are being considered.

Environmental Review

Environmental documents are either available for review or are being prepared for individual components to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and 23 CFR 771. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information on potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is or will be included in the environmental documention.

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 540-899-4288, TTY/TDD 711.

Get Involved

Thank you for taking the time to review the information presented here tonight. Your comments are important and are greatly appreciated. VDOT will carefully consider all comments received at this meeting and during the comment period.

Written comments must be postmarked or sent electronically no later than December 22, 2016. There are three ways you may provide us with your comments:

At This Meeting
Please leave your written comments in the designated box or make a verbal comment to the court reporter.

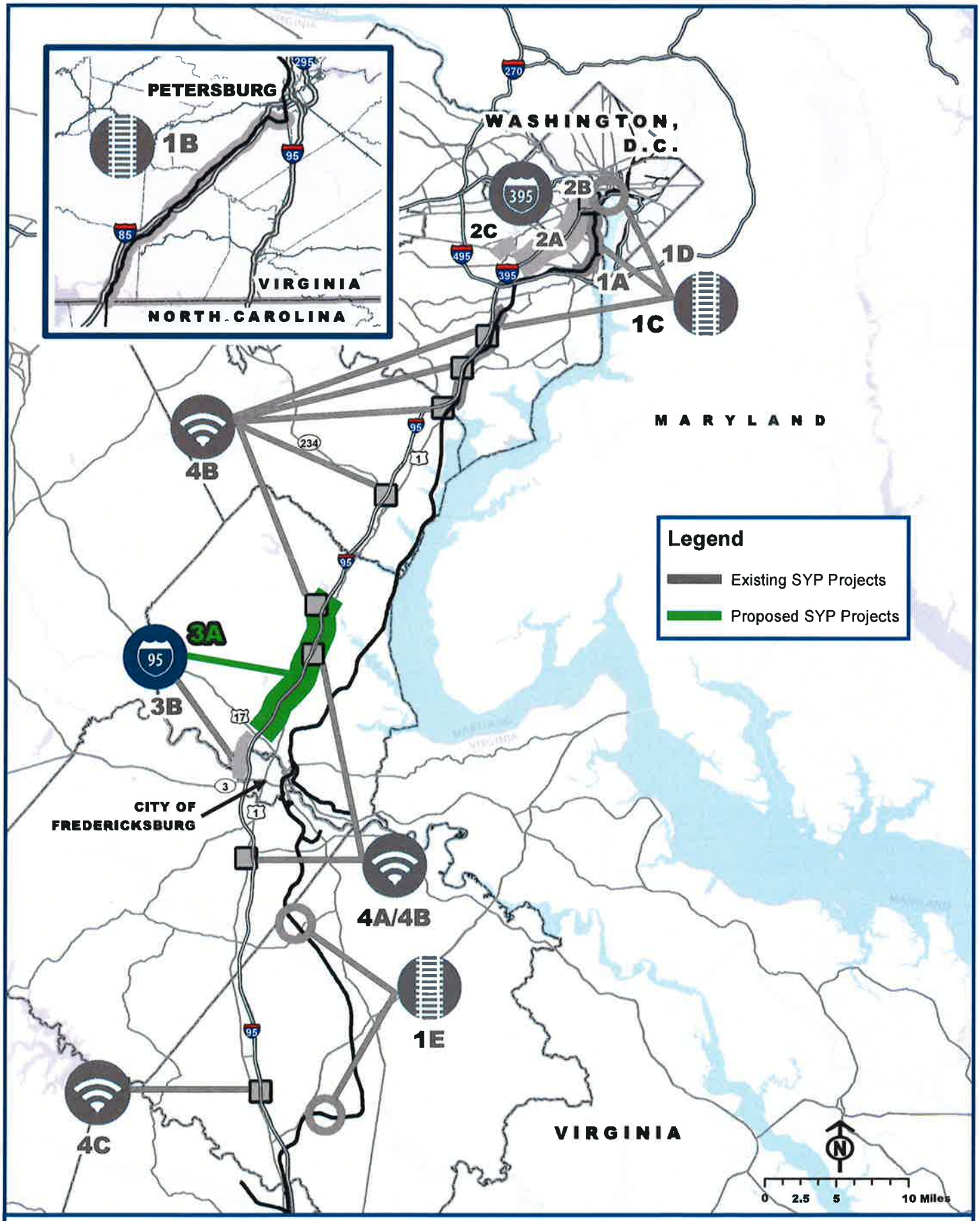
By E-mail
SixYearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov
or
DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov

By Mail
You may submit your written comments to:
Infrastructure Investment Director
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 E. Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Additional information can also be found on the Atlantic Gateway website at
http://atlanticgateway.net/

VDOT
Virginia Department of Transportation

Atlantic Gateway
Partnering to Unlock the I-95 Corridor



Atlantic Gateway
Partnering to Unlock the I-95 Corridor

Atlantic Gateway

Partnering to Unlock the I-95 Corridor

COMMENT SHEET

All comments submitted will become a part of the transcript package and will be made available to the public.

Name (optional):

Address:

1. How do you feel the Atlantic Gateway projects will affect your commute?

2. Do you think the projects will help reduce congestion and improve corridor safety?

3. Do you believe that these projects will provide alternative transportation choices?

4. Did you believe that this meeting helped you understand the project better?

5. How did you hear about this meeting?
Newspaper ____ Direct Mail ____ VDOT Roadway signs ____ Other _____

Please leave this comment sheet at the designated location or mail your comments by December 22, 2016 to the addressee on the reverse side.