City Council of Alexandria, Virginia
Public Hearing Meeting
Saturday, November 21, 2009

Open Mike
King Street/Beauregard Street Improvement Project

Comments of Nancy Jennings

My name is Nancy Jennings and I live at 2115 Marlboro Drive. I attended part of the public hearing last Wednesday evening on the King/Beauregard Improvement Project and will send these comments to the City for consideration.

The proposed project and the fact that it is funded is VERY good news. Since I began residential traffic management 25 years ago when I lived in Claremont—the Arlington neighborhood northeast of this project—the intersection at Beauregard and King Streets has worked poorly. It bumps traffic that should be on arterial streets onto neighborhood streets, such as South Dinwiddie Street, where I lived, and Seminary Road, west of I-395.

This project is slated to improve capacity and flow on King Street by adding more turn lanes and restricting some movements but it does not yet reduce congestion caused by the funnel effect when three lanes of traffic are reduced to two. The section of King Street on either side of Beauregard starts as four lanes and then opens up to six in both directions. While the contentious issues that prevented the widening of King Street to the east—between Beauregard and I-395—may still be unresolved, the City may NOW have the opportunity to widen King Street to the west—between Beauregard and Dawes Avenue. I suggest:

- Extending this project another 100 yards west to the City boundary with Fairfax County and widening that section to six lanes.

- In the past, one obstacle to widening this section was the drive-through lanes at the bank. Perhaps the City could vacate South 25th Street by the bank so it could relocate it drive-through.

Nevertheless, I'm hopeful this project will benefit us all by reducing overflow traffic on residential streets and allowing customers easier access to the businesses in that end of Alexandria, which means more revenue to the City.

Thank you.