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2-12-11

City Council of Alexandria, Virginia
Public Hearing Meeting
Saturday, February 12, 2011

Open Mike

Comments of Nancy Jennings

Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley, Members of the City Council,

My name is Nancy Jennings, and I live at 2115 Marlboro Drive. I am President of Seminary Hill Association, Inc., a member of the BRAC Advisory Group, a member of the High Capacity Transitway Work Group, and regularly attend the Beauregard Small Area Plan meetings that now average two a month. I was also active in START, a coalition of residents in Alexandria and Arlington who were opposed to the HOT lanes inside the Beltway on I-395. I have more than 30 years' experience as a citizen working on residential traffic management solutions. I speak today on my own behalf.

Seminary Hill Association, Inc., has enjoyed the City Council's support of our efforts to preserve our neighborhoods from cut through traffic. Since 2002, the City and Seminary Hill have objected to the addition of any new traffic onto Seminary Road from I-395, such as a ramp from the HOV lanes. That interchange cannot handle the amount of traffic it has today and adding another lane of traffic will not improve the gridlock on Seminary Road.

Seminary Road is a residential street that runs right through the heart of Seminary Hill and connects with other residential streets including Jordan, Howard, Braddock, Fort Williams, Quaker and Janney's, all of which could and would likely be used as cut-through routes through our neighborhoods.

- *Please reaffirm your support for the protection of our neighborhoods as you did in Resolution 2366 when you opposed HOV off-ramps at Seminary Road.*
- *Rather than spend more time and money studying a new ramp at Seminary Road, I urge you to consider other options, such as a redesign of the interchange as an urban diamond or putting an HOV off-ramp onto another better functioning interchange that has fewer topographical challenges, such as King or Duke Street.*

Thank you.