



Now's Your Chance to (Literally) Be Heard: Board of Supervisors Public Input Session on Proposed Dulles Access Highway Scheduled for June 2 in Brambleton

The Board of Supervisors has scheduled a public input session on the proposed Dulles Access Highway on Monday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium of Briar Woods High School at 22525 Belmont Ridge Road in Brambleton.

[As I shared last month](#), several routes have been identified and VDOT has recommended Alternative 3C, which would put express lanes in the median of Route 50, as its preferred option. Another option, Alternative 2, would build a new road to the north of 50 and not disrupt commuters. The VDOT recommendation will have major, negative consequences for the Route 50 corridor in Loudoun County and Dulles South residents. Many of you attended VDOT's public information session at Liberty Elementary School, and you've asked me what else you can do to fight VDOT's recommendation.

The Board of Supervisors is being asked by VDOT to pick a preferred route. This public meeting will be your chance to come to the Board and express your preference. Even if you have already emailed the Board and VDOT, it is far more powerful for us to hear from you in person. Some of my colleagues on the Board are undecided about this project, so coming to the meeting and speaking will make a difference. So, my answer to those who have asked what else you can do is: please attend and speak at this meeting

Yesterday the County began accepting advance sign-ups to speak at the meeting. I highly recommend you call 703-777-0200 and reserve a speaking spot as soon as possible. You will be allowed to speak even if you don't sign up in advance, but you'll probably have to wait a while.

As you probably know by now, Delegate David Ramadan and I have been fighting this recommendation head on. I'm pleased to report we now have some help. Senator Dick Black and Delegate Jim LeMunyon have also announced their opposition to Alternative 3C. Delegate LeMunyon was the author of the congestion-relief formula that VDOT will be required to use to evaluate funding for projects, so his analysis of the shortcomings of Alternative 3C is particularly noteworthy. The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, an advocacy group for

transportation solutions, has also announced its opposition to Alternative 3C on the grounds that it will be bad for commuters, bad for Dulles Airport, and a missed opportunity for a much needed new east-west connection between Northstar and 606.

Today, I joined with Senator Black and Delegates Ramadan and LeMunyon to send a letter to the Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne calling for VDOT to withdraw its recommendation. Our letter contains a detailed analysis of the two alternatives, and rebuts many arguments made by supporters of Alternative 2. I encourage you to read our letter and analysis, particularly if you are planning on speaking to the Board, as it will help you better understand the debate.

A copy of the letter is available [here](#).

Unfortunately, this discussion has been portrayed as pitting communities against each other. I represent communities both north and south of Route 50, and I wouldn't be advocating for a route I didn't truly think was the best solution for everyone. Much of the support for Alternative 3C has come from Brambleton, but many of those residents have been led to believe that a "cargo road" is going to be put "through" their community, which is not the case. I continue to believe the best thing we can all do to support our cause is to get the real facts out on the table. Limiting future options on 50 by putting a single lane express lane in each direction for airport traffic would be an incredibly short sighted decision. Unlike any other proposed or planned project, including interchanges, it would require Route 50 to be torn up and rebuilt, causing numerous delays. It will cost a quarter of a billion dollars, and provide no relief to commuters.

It's up to all of us to ensure this doesn't happen. I hope I'll see you on June 2 at Briar Woods High School.