



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Darrell B. Mobley
Acting Secretary

Leif A. Dormsjo
Acting Deputy Secretary

October 26, 2012

The Honorable Sean Connaughton
Secretary of Transportation
Commonwealth of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond VA 23219

Dear Secretary Connaughton:

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify our position on the proposed study of the Potomac Crossings for Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Based on the draft press release you shared with my office, it appears that you may have misconstrued former Secretary Swaim-Staley's letter regarding our position on new crossings of the Potomac River. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify Maryland's position prior to your issuance of a press release.

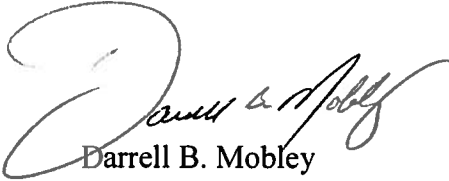
The Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOTs) highest priority remains the preservation of our existing infrastructure and the safety of the traveling public. MDOT does not intend to revisit the years of debate regarding new crossings of the Potomac River. We are interested in the study of potential improvements to existing crossings, including: the Governor Nice Bridge along the US 301 corridor, the American Legion Bridge on the Capital Beltway, and the potential addition of transit across the Wilson Bridge. We believe that our first priority should be to maintain and enhance the existing infrastructure to support our regional needs. Further, we believe that exploring the concept of additional crossings of the Potomac at this time could create unrealistic expectations and defer the time and resources that should be dedicated toward addressing regional needs by improving our existing crossings.

It is my sincere hope that this clarifies Maryland's interest and position on this matter. I recognize that this may alter your willingness to pursue the study as you envisioned, but our staff participation would be contingent upon constraining any analysis to the existing crossings.

The Honorable Sean Connaughton
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Again, thank you for the opportunity to clarify our position. Please have your staff contact Mr. Don Halligan, MDOT's Director of Planning and Capital Programming, at 410-865-1275 or dhalligan@mdot.state.md.us if you desire to pursue this study. As always, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darrell B. Mobley".

Darrell B. Mobley
Acting Secretary

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Leif A. Dormsjo, Acting Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
Mr. Don Halligan, Director, Office of Planning & Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation
Mrs. Melinda B. Peters, Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration
Mr. Doug Simmons, Deputy Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration