



66 Alliance | | gscott@66alliance.org | <http://66alliance.org>

66 Alliance Members --

Happy Spring/Summer and hurray for perhaps the first time I have seen the sun in a week or more! Let's hope there will be more sunny days to come.

I've been out of touch attending to my "day job" and family issues for a couple of months, but believe it is an appropriate time to get the 66 Alliance back up and running. Thus, this is my first weekly newsletter of Alliance 2.0, and I hope you will enjoy it.

Take a look at the Alliance's website, which I have spent some time updating -- www.66alliance.org. Suggestions for improvements and changes much appreciated.

I believe we have three primary goals for the rest of 2016 and for the beginning of 2017:

- **Extend HOV-2 on 66 past 2020;**
- **Enact legislation to preserve the "no tolling of reverse commuters" stand currently taken by VDOT (it could change its position at any time with little or no warning); and,**
- **Preserve the Clean Fuel Vehicle (CFV) program past January 1, 2017.**

Of these 3 goals, the CFV program is the most urgent, as the first two were taken care of, at least temporarily, earlier this year.

Our work over the past year has resulted in victories for the Alliance members who care about HOV-2 and tolls on reverse commuters. However, as of today, those of us with CFV plates will be excluded from 66's HOV/HOT lanes starting on January 1, 2017. I, for one, am willing to fight hard and spend some of my hard-earned money to prevent the sunseting of the CFV program on 66.

I hope there are others that agree with me and will join this fight. Here are my thoughts on the steps we should take collectively to win this fight:

- **Understand that VDOT is no longer the target; only the General Assembly will be able or willing to reverse the sunseting of the CFV program;**
- **Every 66 commuter with a CFV plate should be a member of the Alliance; whether it is through advertising, social media, bumper stickers or signs on the cars of existing members, we need 100% support from CFV plate owners;**
- **We need financial resources to win this fight against VDOT and the companies that profit from tolling -- they don't want CFVs in their toll lanes; I have already reached out to several auto manufacturers to try to secure financial and political support, as well as to the Virginia auto dealers; many Alliance members have pledged additional financial support for a 2016/2017 effort and now is the time for you to step up; once we know what type of budget we have to work with, we can make decisions on how to allocate those resources;**
- **We need to build a broader coalition of interests backing the CFV program, whether that is simply more CFV plate holders, auto manufacturers, dealers or environmental protection activists -- our numbers and breadth need to grow to offset the for-profit tolling companies that oppose HOV-2 and CFVs on 66; and,**
- **Finally, those of us with CFV plates may need to realize that the day of receiving special benefits for buying a gasoline/electric hybrid may be past; the CFV program of 1995 or 2000 may not be applicable in 2016; I've discussed with several people the need to "renew" the CFV program -- i.e., preserve the current program for a couple of years, but then require commuters to invest in "next generation vehicles" (all-electrics, plug-in hybrids and/or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles) to retain a CFV plate at some point in the future; just as we chose to invest in gasoline/electric hybrids 15 years ago, we may need to lead the charge into the next generation technology vehicles of tomorrow to maintain our use of the HOV/HOT lanes on 66 and other Virginia interstates.**

I plan to spend the next couple of months talking with General Assembly members who supported our efforts earlier this year about the "right" way to approach the 2017 General Assembly session. Since we had such success

gaining resolutions from county and city governments supporting the Alliance's goals in 2015 and 2016, we need to focus our attention on those boards of supervisors again this year. And, finally, we need to gain the support of Governor McAuliffe -- who will be leaving office at the end of 2017 (if he doesn't accept a position in a possible second Clinton Administration after the November elections). For a governor was his liberal credentials, it is unconscionable that he is not supporting the CFV program and is siding with the tolling companies.

Thanks to all of you who sent in e-mails expressing your support for continuing the Alliance's activities in 2016 with an eye towards 2017. Please consider making a contribution to the Alliance today -- the ads and other expenses of keeping the Alliance going and growing our membership all cost money and our financial cupboard is almost bare! Please go to www.66alliance.org/support-66-alliance/ today to make a contribution via PayPal.

Many thanks! Greg

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