

**STATEMENT OF GREG SCOTT**  
**ON BEHALF OF THE "66 ALLIANCE"**  
**TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S**  
**PUBLIC HEARING ON**  
**TIER 2 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE I-66 OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY PROJECT"**  
**BATTLEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**  
**HAYMARKET, VIRGINIA**  
**JUNE 2, 2015**

Good evening and thank you for this opportunity to speak at this important hearing.

My name is Greg Scott. I live with my family in Warrenton. I have been a daily commuter on I-66 from Warrenton to downtown Washington, D.C. for the past 13 years. I appear at this hearing on behalf of the 66 Alliance, a new group of I-66 commuters united to stop VDOT's plans with respect to changing the rules for use of the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on I-66.

The 66 Alliance is a true grassroots political force that started as an informal discussion between a few I-66 commuters. After launching a website – [www.66alliance.org](http://www.66alliance.org) -- a week ago, the 66 Alliance now has over 300 members --- a membership base that is expanding every day.

The 66 Alliance represents the tens of thousands of commuters -- in Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Fauquier, Loudoun and surrounding counties, as well as the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church -- who use I-66 every week. Specifically, the 66 Alliance was formed to support and defend the current rules governing the use of I-66's HOV lanes – rules that benefit the environment and ease our travel on this vital arterial highway serving most of Northern Virginia.

Currently, during rush hour periods (Eastbound in the morning and Westbound in the evening), vehicles with Clean Fuel Vehicle license plates (CFV plates) or with two individuals in the vehicle (HOV-2) may use the I-66 HOV lanes.

VDOT estimates that there are 19,000 vehicles along the I-66 corridor with CFV plates. There must be three or four times that number of HOV-2 commuters. As a result, roughly 60 to 80,000 vehicles benefit from the current I-66 HOV rules each day.

These tens of thousands of commuters, like me, have made decisions on where to live, where to work, where to send our children to school, and which car to buy based on these current I-66 HOV rules.

Now, along comes VDOT with its proposals to widen most portions of I-66 and to convert major portions of I-66 to toll lanes. During VDOT's plans, these toll lanes would be High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes where drivers that could afford the tolls or vehicles with three occupants (HOV-3) could travel. Inside the Beltway, these HOT lanes would run both ways during rush hour, causing dramatic changes to

“reverse” commuters. Outside the beltway, vehicles with CFV plates or two occupants who cannot afford to pay the tolls will be forced into non-express lanes.

To date, VDOT has not scheduled any public hearings or released any public information on its plans to change the current I-66 HOV rules. To date, VDOT has not released the studies or congestion mitigation studies or reports to justify its draconian proposed changes to the I-66 HOV rules – changes that will impact the daily lives of tens of thousands of Northern Virginia commuters and our families. And, to date, VDOT has not explained to us – the commuters and taxpayers who rely on I-66 – why it would propose these changes when there is no federal or state law that requires it to do so.

This is why the 66 Alliance was formed – to ask these simple and reasonable questions of VDOT and to keep pressing VDOT, as well as federal and state elected officials, for complete answers to these questions before one shovel of dirt is moved or one foot of asphalt is laid on its ambitious I-66 project.

I rise this evening to encourage others to join with the members of the 66 Alliance to oppose VDOT’s HOV changes. Together, we can stop these changes. Together, we can preserve the current HOV rules. And, together, we I-66 commuters can win this fight. Please join us by visiting [www.66alliance.org](http://www.66alliance.org) – that’s [www.66alliance.org](http://www.66alliance.org) – to add your voice to the growing chorus of public protest over VDOT’s proposals.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the 66 Alliance and the tens of thousands of I-66 commuters who support the current HOV rules this evening.