



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

66 Alliance Members --

Sorry for the delayed report, but it was a busy long week-end! While there is not a great deal to report in terms of visible action, there is lots going on "behind the scenes" --

- **Congressional Letter** -- I have met with all the offices of the Northern Virginia congressional letter and have received very positive responses regarding the preservation of the CFV program on 66 (and also, at this point, on 395, as VDOT has proposed to kill that program as well as part of its proposal to convert 395's HOV lanes to HOT lanes). A draft letter is circulating among these congressional offices and I hope it will produce a joint, bi-partisan letter from both Senate and House members to Governor McAuliffe. Stay tuned -- if I hear of wavering from one or more of these offices, I'll ask Alliance members to contact them directly via e-mail.
- **State Senate Letter** -- Our meetings with Senator Favola and Marsden last week went very well. They are reaching out to GOP members of the Virginia Senate about a similar bi-partisan letter to Governor McAuliffe on an administrative extension of the 66 CFV program. Again, if I learn of any reluctance from a Senator, I'll alert the Alliance's membership and ask you to send e-mails. Many thanks to those Alliance members in Senator Marsden's district for your e-mails to him -- they definitely tipped the scales in our favor during my meeting with him!
- **State Delegates Letter** -- As previously mentioned, the Alliance has been invited to conduct a bi-partisan briefing next week with some staff of Northern Virginia House of Delegates members on the CFV program. I'll plan to attend for the Alliance. Given the size of the conference room, I don't think we can invite a bunch of Alliance members to attend -- even if your schedules would permit you to be there. If you are interested in joining by phone, there will be a dial-in

number that I would be glad to share with members who would like to participate. I hope that another bi-partisan joint letter to Governor McAuliffe will come out of this briefing -- this one from House of Delegate members.

- **VDOT Meeting?** -- Finally, during our meeting with Senator Favola last week, she urged us to meet with Deputy Transportation Secretary Nick Donohue to discuss our concerns with the 1/1/17 deadline for the 66 CFV program. While I responded that I wasn't sure that VDOT is interested in what the Alliance has to say (it really hasn't been ever since we were formed), I committed to Senator Favola to seek such a meeting. I have reach out to Nick to request a meeting in Richmond or Northern Virginia. If Alliance members are interested in attending that meeting with me for what I presume will be a civil conversation with pointed, but polite, disagreements, please let me know and I'll be sure to include you if your schedule permits.
- **Magnets and Bumper Stickers** -- We are almost out of our second order of car door magnets and bumper stickers, but still have a few of each if anyone is interested in turning their car into a mobile ad for the Alliance. My daughter says she is embarrassed by the magnets on my car ("they are tacky," she thinks), but they do appear to be working. We've gained about 25 new Alliance members over the last couple of weeks without any earned media of which I am aware -- so folks must be seeing the signs and stickers and going to our website to join up!
- **Thanks!** -- Many, many thanks to Billie Jo Kaufman, Blair Hanuschak (who also joined me at the Favola meeting), and James Pimpedly for making financial contributions to the Alliance over the past week. As a reminder, the Alliance's expenses are paid entirely by the voluntary contributions of our members -- website maintenance, bumper stickers, e-mail servers to keep our Weekly Reports from being "blacklisted" as spam, etc.
- **Support the Alliance Now, or Pay VDOT Later** -- If you are hesitant about making a contribution, please remember that VDOT plans to charge you \$17 a day in tolls to use 66 inside the Beltway during rush hour starting 1/1/17 -- access you currently have for free. That's over \$4,000 a year -- every year -- in tolls if you assume commuting 5 days a week and 4 weeks of vacation. When compared to those tolls, a \$100 contribution to the Alliance is pocket change! If you want the Alliance to continue this fight against VDOT and you want to support the effort financially, please go to www.66alliance.org/support-the-alliance/ and make a contribution. In advance, many thanks for your support!

Have a great week! Greg

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