



THE 66 ALLIANCE SUPPORTS HB 1 AND HB 841/SB 405 TO STOP VDOT'S I-66 PLANS

The 66 Alliance – Is a grassroots advocacy coalition of over 1,000 individuals opposed to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) plans for converting major portions of Interstate 66 to toll lanes. The Alliance is made up of commuters who use I-66 every day and who have made major life decisions – where to live, where to work, where to send their kids to school – based on the current High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) rules on I-66.

Support for Legislation – Opposition to VDOT's plans for I-66 has been bi-partisan and virtually unanimous among I-66 commuters and Northern Virginia's local and county elected leaders. The Alliance respectfully urges the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate to:

- Pass HB 1, introduced by Delegate LeMunyon in the House and Senator Black in the Senate, to prevent VDOT from imposing tolls on 66 inside the Beltway; and,
- Pass HB 841/SB 405, introduced by Delegate Webert in the House and Senator Vogel in the Senate, to allow VDOT to impose tolls on 66 outside the Beltway, but only if the tolls are on new lane capacity, the number of existing, general purpose, non-toll lanes is not diminished, and the existing high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane rules (the HOV-2 and clean fuel vehicle plate programs) are preserved.

VDOT's Opposition -- VDOT will put forth three primary arguments as to why HB 1 and HB 841/SB 405 should not be enacted. None of these arguments stand up to scrutiny:

- VDOT must act because I-66 traffic is "degraded" under federal regulations – **Mostly False** -
- Only 3 miles of I-66's total length of 75 miles are classified as "degraded" and the upgrades permitted by HB 841/SB 405 will cause this limited stretch of I-66 miles to be upgraded into compliance with all federal regulations.
- VDOT has no choice but to move I-66 to HOV-3 because such a move has been mandated by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and Virginia will face federal penalties for ignoring this mandate – **False** -- Virginia is not bound by COG decisions with respect to HOV-3. COG's plans can be – and in the past frequently have been – amended without a COG state facing a federal penalty of any type.
- Clean Fuel Vehicle (CFVs) programs on HOV interstate highways must sunset under federal regulations – **False** -- Congress in fact just adopted an extension of federal law authorizing CFV use of HOV lanes on interstate highways and clarified that limiting CFV access to HOV lanes, as VDOT has done already, is sufficient to meet federal regulations.