



# **Review of I-495 Capital Beltway Vegetation Plan as Required by Appropriations Act**

**December 16, 2009 CTB Workshop**

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- “...prior to the completion of HOT Lanes on the I-495 Capital Beltway, VTRC will conduct a review of reforestation best practices and approaches used with major infrastructure improvements in densely populated areas.”
- Findings to be reported to Secretary of Transportation and Commonwealth Transportation Board prior to December 31, 2009.



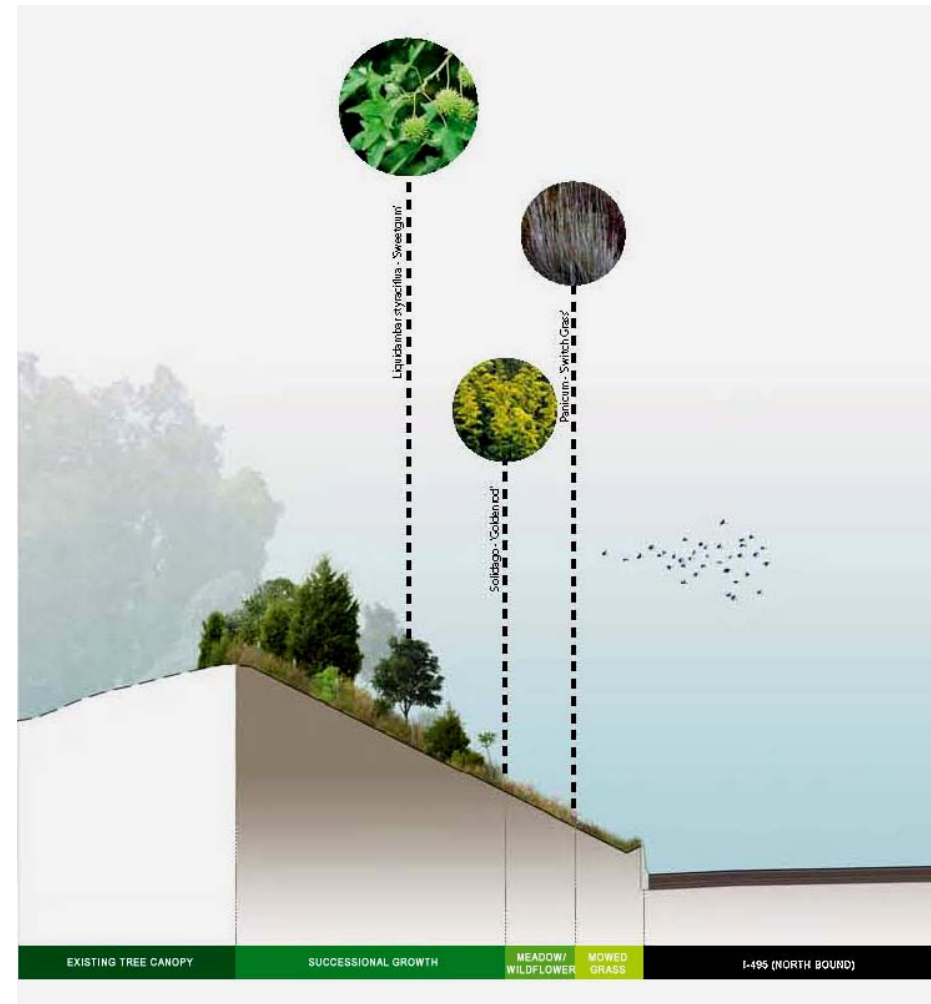
Before State



Construction State

- Clarify legislative intent and gather information
  - Held meetings with:
    - Senator Janet Howell (Fairfax) and staff
    - VDOT HOT Lanes Project management staff
    - Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships
- Review and discussions with subject matter experts
  - Reviewed documents and best practices from FHWA and other states
  - Consulted Virginia Department of Forestry
- Delivery of findings as called for in the legislation
- Dissemination of findings to VDOT staff

- A landscape plan for the I-495 project is under development by VDOT and Capital Beltway Express, LLC
- Landscape and vegetation planning is applied on all major projects and VDOT has extensive experience implementing plans
- Resources were identified that may be valuable in developing the final landscaping plan, including:
  - FHWA manual: *Roadside Revegetation: An Integrated Approach to Establishing Native Plants*
  - Virginia Department of Forestry: *Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping*
  - Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation: *Native Plants for Conservation and Landscaping*



Conceptual Plan

# Findings (cont.)

Sources reviewed commonly recommended the following steps for successful revegetation:

- Identify revegetation goals and objectives
- Define vegetation based on limiting factors within project area (i.e., soil type, slope, space limitations)
- Select *native* vegetative species that meet revegetation goals and facilitate natural succession
- Develop overarching plan that includes:
  - Description of desired future conditions
  - Mitigating measures to be used
  - Plant materials and installation methods
  - Budget and timeline
  - Monitoring strategy
  - Correction strategy
- Implement, monitor, and manage the revegetation project



# Findings (cont.)



# QUESTIONS