



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Chairman

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Agenda item # 7

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

April 17, 2013

MOTION

**Made By: Ms. Fisher Seconded By: Mr. Garczynski
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously**

**Title: Limited Access Control Change (LACC)
I-395 - Washington Boulevard (Route 27) and Columbia Pike (Route 244) Interchange
Arlington County**

WHEREAS, Interstate 395 (originally I-95 and Shirley Highway), and its interchanges, including the Washington Boulevard (Route 27) and Columbia Pike (Route 244) Interchange, was designated as a Limited Access Highway by the State Highway Commission of Virginia, predecessor to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), on August 24, 1944 and reaffirmed under the Interstate System designation on October 4, 1956; and,

WHEREAS, the I-395, Washington Boulevard (Route 27) and Columbia Pike (Route 244) Interchange is located in close proximity to the Pentagon and shares common vehicular and pedestrian access points; and,

WHEREAS, modifications to the interchange were made in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon to improve security; and,

WHEREAS, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, outlined in green on the aerial photograph contained in the attachment hereto, is located at the southwest corner of the Pentagon and just northwest of said interchange; and,

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WHEREAS, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial is currently operated and maintained under a public-private partnership between the Washington Headquarter Service (WHS) of the Department of Defense and the Pentagon Memorial Fund (PMF), a not-for-profit corporation established by families of those killed in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense, through the Washington Headquarter Service, has requested the use of the infield area of the loop ramp in the northwest quadrant of the Washington Boulevard and Columbia Pike Interchange, Ramp BD, (outlined in red on the aerial photograph contained in said attachment) in order to improve security, safety and traffic flow in and around the Pentagon and the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial; and,

WHEREAS, WHS and PMF have also identified said infield area as a potential site for a Visitor Education Center for the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial because of its proximity to the memorial and location in the flight path of Flight 77; and,

WHEREAS, VDOT has evaluated this proposed request and use of the said infield area has determined that a restricted use would fulfill both the requestor's (WHS) and VDOT's transportation needs for that area; and,

WHEREAS, CTB approval of changes in limited access control is governed by policy and regulations relating to change of limited access control set forth in 24 VAC 30-401-10 et. seq. ("CTB Policy") which set forth the conditions for said approval; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed request is to establish an inside limited access control line within the infield area of Ramp BD with two breaks in the limited access control line so as to permit use of the area within the interior limited access line for security, safety and traffic flow in and around the Pentagon and the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial and said interior limited access line shall begin at a point 60.72 right of Washington Boulevard SBL centerline Station 117+12.21 and shall continue along Columbia Pike, Ramp BD and Washington Boulevard ending at said point of beginning, with a proposed break for a restricted use 15 foot wide service entrance between Columbia Pike Station 101+94.12 and 102+09.12 and a proposed break for a 15 foot wide pedestrian entrance between Ramp BD Stations 10+15 and 10+30 with the hours of restrictions to be established by the Commissioner; and,

WHEREAS, since the use of the infield area will be restricted to pedestrian access only from the existing and/or improved sidewalk along Columbia Pike (Route 244) with a limited timeframe off-hour delivery entrance for service vehicles, VDOT has determined that a global traffic study is not needed and would be superfluous and thus recommends waiving that policy requirement; and,

WHEREAS, public notices were posted in the Washington Post on March 17, 2013, the Arlington Connection on March 20, 2013 and the El Tiempo Latino on March 22, 2013, providing an opportunity for comments regarding the proposed limited access control change, which closed on March 29, 2013, with no comments received; and,

WHEREAS, Arlington County shares the parties' interest in indentifying space for the Visitor's Education Center for the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, the Arlington National Cemetery's expansion, the County's streetcar project, and the Pentagon's security and requests that the parties continue to meet to identify an alternative plan for the property in this area; and

WHEREAS, the security, safety improvements and the plans for the Visitor's Education Center for the National 9/11 Pentagon will require a period of time for planning, development and funding before any actual construction is commenced, so that if an acceptable alternative is agreed to by the Commissioner, such alternative can be presented at a future meeting of the CTB if it is necessary to modify the interior limited access line established hereby; and,

WHEREAS, the CTB believes the use of the northwest quadrant as proposed by WHS and PMF is appropriate given the general interest of the parties in indentifying space for the Visitor's Education Center for the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial and that VDOT should proceed with implementation of the proposed limited access control change and restricted use as set forth herein unless an acceptable alternative is agreed to by the Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, the said proposed LACC was determined not to be regionally significant for air quality conformity purposes as it involves only pedestrian access changes; and,

WHEREAS, VDOT has determined that an environmental assessment of the property should be made in connection with the actual proposed use if this LACC and restricted use is approved and recommends that the CTB approve the proposed use and LACC, contingent upon completion of an environmental assessment to the satisfaction of the Commissioner; and,

WHEREAS, VDOT's Chief Engineer has determined that the said proposed limited access control change and restricted break of the limited access control, based on the concept submitted, is viable from safety and traffic operations standpoint and will not have an adverse effect on the operation of the transportation facilities; and,

WHEREAS, all engineering, construction and other improvements shall meet all VDOT standards and requirements; and,

WHEREAS, all costs of engineering and construction for any necessary improvements to the sidewalk, roadway shoulders, roadway storm drainage, the construction of a barrier and/or fencing will be borne by the WHS or PMF; and,

WHEREAS, VDOT has determined that while there will be costs associated with consideration and implementation of this request and will require the requestor to submit sums

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sufficient to satisfy said costs, no additional monetary compensation will be due as a result of the proposed LACC; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Engineer has briefed the FHWA on the proposed change in limited access and potential use of the property and has also determined that such change does not impact the interstate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the provisions of Section 33.1-58 of the *Code of Virginia* (1950), as amended, the Commonwealth Transportation Board hereby concurs with the determinations and recommendations set forth herein and, subject to a determination by the Commissioner of Highways that all outstanding conditions necessary for the proposed limited access control change have been satisfied, approves the limited access control changes as set forth herein, including but not limited to the use of and restricted access to the infield area of Ramp BD as defined above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commissioner is hereby authorized to take all actions and execute any and all documents needed to comply with its resolution.

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