

# APPENDIX J

## LETTERS OF COMMITMENT

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## HENRICO COUNTY LETTER OF COMMITMENT

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TERRELL C. HUGHES, P.E.  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS  
COUNTY ENGINEER  
(804) 501-4393

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF HENRICO

February 14, 2023

Mr. Barton Thrasher, P.E., Chief Engineer  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
1401 E. Broad Street  
Richmond VA 23219

Re: Short Pump Interstate Access Request and Letter of Commitment

Dear Mr. Thrasher:

Henrico County, in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Goochland County, has conducted the Short Pump area traffic study as a follow-on effort to previous studies conducted by the department under the VDOT STARS program. The Short Pump area is the fastest growing area in Henrico County and faces multiple operational and safety issues along the I-64 / I-295/ Route 250 and Route 288 corridors. The objective of Henrico County's study was to identify the needs of the transportation network in the Short Pump area in Henrico and Goochland Counties, which includes sections of I-64, I-295, Route 288, and US 250, and to develop and evaluate potential solutions to address those needs. The study – culminating in the development of an Interchange Access Report (IAR), as a federally-required step for any project that is proposing new or modified access to the interstate system – proposed a package of highway network improvements along I-64 at the US 250 interchange and a proposed new interchange at North Gayton Road in Henrico County, as well as along Route 288 and US 250 in Goochland County.

Henrico County is submitting a formal request for consideration of new access points on the interstate system (a new interchange on I-64 at North Gayton Road) and modifications in existing access points as proposed in the IAR. This study has involved a robust collaborative effort between stakeholders from Henrico County, Goochland County, VDOT, and FHWA, with regular coordination and concurrence points at every major milestone in the study process. Henrico and Goochland Counties jointly believe that the Short Pump Area IAR appropriately documents and demonstrates the need and the operational and safety effectiveness of the proposed new and modified access points. This request for changes in freeway system access is in partnership between the two counties, as evidenced by the attached letter of support and commitment from Goochland County.

The results of the analyses presented in the IAR illustrate a series of benefits for motorists traveling in Henrico and Goochland Counties, including:

- Improved travel time on freeways and arterials within the Short Pump area.
- Reduced queuing and delays on I-64, and corresponding reductions in congestion-related crashes on I-64; in the case of westbound I-64 at US 250, the improvements would reduce several miles of congestion in the afternoon/evening peak period.
- Reduced congestion and crashes on Route 288 mainline and at the interchange with US 250.

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- Reduced vehicle trips, congestion, and crashes on US 250 within the study area.
- Reduced circuitous routing of traffic to and from the Short Pump area, through more direct access to the area, especially for high-traffic locations such as Short Pump Town Center, Short Pump Commons, Short Pump Crossing, and Towne Center West.

The proposed improvements and limited access changes in Henrico and Goochland Counties include the following:

1. Construct a new diverging diamond interchange at North Gayton Road.
2. Construct a modified partial cloverleaf interchange with contraflow left-turn lanes at the I-64 interchange with US 250.
3. Construct an auxiliary lane on southbound Route 288 between I-64 and US 250.
4. Construct an auxiliary lane on northbound Route 288 between US 250 and I-64.
5. Construct improvements to ramp terminals at US 250 interchange with Route 288
6. Construct improvements at the intersection of US 250 and Tom Leonard Drive
7. Implement a turning restriction at the intersection of US 250 and Dominion Boulevard
8. Convert the westbound I-64 off-ramp to I-295 to two lanes and construct a continuous auxiliary lane on northbound I-295 between I-64 and Nuckols Road.

Henrico County's study team has worked in partnership with VDOT to finalize the preferred alternative, consisting of a combination of build packages that incorporate all the improvements listed above, and developed a proposed phased approach for implementation through final design and construction for those packages. The proposed phasing plan was derived based on elements of the preferred alternative that can stand on their own, in terms of utility, operational effectiveness, and safety. Considerations that drove the recommended phasing and prioritization include funding availability, phased component costs, maintenance of traffic and sequence of construction, public input, and the impact of a given phased component(s) on the overall network operations. Based on these considerations, Henrico County recommends the implementation of improvement 1. listed above (a new interchange at North Gayton Road) and improvements 3. through 8. ("Modified Base" improvements) in the first phase (designated as "Build Package 2" in the IAR), and improvement 2 (modification of I-64 / US 250 interchange) in the second phase. In the course of this study, the evaluation of the phased improvements as a "build package" (i.e. IAR Build Package 2 constructed first as recommended above) was shown to perform better than the No-Build Condition. Henrico County commits to work in partnership with VDOT and FHWA to implement the entire preferred alternative, with a focus on Build Package 2 initially and followed by the remaining interchange modification at US 250.

Public involvement was conducted in late fall of 2022 via an online *MetroQuest* survey of the proposed improvements. The results of the survey indicated strong and broad public support for the improvements included in the recommended preferred alternative, with notable support specifically for the proposed new interchange at I-64 and North Gayton Road.

Once the IAR is approved, Henrico County understands that the project must be approved through the NEPA (environmental regulatory compliance) process and dedicated funding must be identified before the final design or any construction can begin. Major recommended project elements that are included in the regional Long Range Transportation Plan under the constrained project list (see pages 93-94 of the Connect RVA2045 LRTP) include a new I-64 and N. Gayton Road interchange, I-64/N. Route 288 mainline improvements and improvements to the interchange at US 250:

[https://planrva.org/wp-content/uploads/ConnectRVA2045\\_LRTP.pdf](https://planrva.org/wp-content/uploads/ConnectRVA2045_LRTP.pdf)

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Henrico County formally requests Departmental IAR approval of the proposed changes in access, additional network improvements proposed in the preferred alternative, and support/assistance from VDOT in obtaining a *Finding of Engineering and Operational Acceptability* from FHWA. Henrico County appreciates the collaboration and contributions of VDOT staff on the development of the study and looks forward to continued partnership to see the process through to successful completion. Please feel free to call me with any questions or requests for additional information.

Sincerely,



Terrell C. Hughes, P.E.  
Director of Public Works

Attachment: IAR Letter of Support and Commitment from Goochland County Administrator

pc: Mr. Emmett Heltzel, P.E., State Location and Design Engineer  
Mr. Shane Mann, P.E., VDOT Deputy Chief Engineer  
Mr. Dale Totten, P.E., VDOT Richmond District Engineer

## GOOCHLAND COUNTY LETTER OF COMMITMENT

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[www.goochlandva.us](http://www.goochlandva.us)

January 24, 2023

Henrico County – Department of Public Works  
Mr. Todd Eure, Assistant Director  
4301 E Parham Rd  
Henrico, VA 23228

Re: Short Pump Study Interchange Access Report

Mr. Eure:

Goochland County is pleased to hear that the Short Pump Study IAR is being finalized and submitted to VDOT and FHWA. This study will highlight much needed improvements along Route 250, Route 288, I-295, and I-64; all of which our citizens utilize daily.

The study includes several recommended improvements that lie within Goochland County itself, including the Route 288 Southbound Auxiliary Lane from Route 250 to Tuckahoe Creek Pkwy. These improvements are not only recommended in this IAR but were also recommended as improvements in the 2018 Route 288 Corridor Improvement Study.

Goochland County supports these recommended improvements and will work collaboratively with you in our efforts to advance them forward.

Respectfully,



Victor Carpenter  
County Administrator

Cc: Deputy County Administrator, Krystal Onaitis  
Transportation Manager, Austin Goyne