

# SENATE OF VIRGINIA



June 8, 2012

Mr. Jack Van Dop  
Federal Highway Administration,  
Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division  
21400 Ridgetop Circle  
Sterling, VA 20166

Dear Mr. Van Dop:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the Route 1 Widening Project in Alexandria, Virginia, adjacent to the Woodlawn Plantation National Historic Landmark. It has come to my attention that the FHWA preferred option for the widening, called a "Southern Bypass," would veer away from the current roadbed in front of the Woodlawn Plantation on the west side of Route 1, and would instead take a new path to the south and east, through the property currently used by Woodlawn Stables. It has also come to my attention that the stables were not given adequate notice to comment on this action, though it could result in serious affects to their business, perhaps even closure. Examining the timeline for this project, it seems that the decision by FHWA to choose a preferred option may not have been done with the benefit of all the completed historic preservation and environmental studies. I am aware that a number of the Consulting Parties in the process, as well as the members of larger community in my district, have expressed concerns about the adequacies of the studies being produced, and the abbreviated timeline for comment and analysis of the larger project. The "Southern Bypass" option for the roadway seems to have been developed without due consideration of other options--options that would meet the intent and need of the Route 1 widening, but that may have a lesser impact on the valuable historic and community resources in this area.

I would ask you to engage with all affected parties as closely as possible on this issue and examine other options for the Route 1 widening. Given the tremendous interest in this project, and the complexities of the reports and issues involved, I would also ask for additional meetings of the Consulting Parties and an additional 30-day comment period for the Environmental Assessment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Ebbin".

Adam P. Ebbin  
Member, Virginia State Senate