



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1401 EAST BROAD STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 2000

**Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E.**  
Commissioner

September 12, 2014

The Honorable Stephen D. Newman, Chairman  
Senate of Virginia  
Post Office Box 480  
Forest, Virginia 24551

The Honorable Thomas Davis Rust, Chairman  
Virginia House of Delegates  
730 Elden Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

Dear Chairman Newman and Chairman Rust:

I am pleased to submit this report in accordance with § 46.2-749.3 (A.3) of the Code of Virginia, enacted pursuant to Chapter 743 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly. Section 46.2-749.3 (A.3) requires the Commissioner of Highways to annually report the “traffic volumes on the HOV facilities that result in a degraded condition as identified in SAFETEA-LU or other applicable federal law and reported to the Federal Highway Administration”.

As defined by MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century), which is the successor to SAFETEA-LU, an HOV facility is considered to be degraded if vehicles operating on the facility are failing to maintain a minimum average operating speed 90 percent of the time over a consecutive 180-day period during morning or evening weekday peak hour periods (or both). The minimum operating speed means (a) 45 miles per hour, in the case of a HOV facility with a speed limit of 50 miles per hour or greater; and (b) not more than 10 miles per hour below the speed limit, in the case of an HOV facility with a speed limit of less than 50 miles per hour (United States Code, Title 23, Section 166).

At this time, the only facility that meets the operating speed degraded condition is Interstate 66 (I-66) between the Capital Beltway and Route 243. The average peak hour traffic volume on the eastbound lane in the morning HOV restricted period, during which speed degradation conditions exist, is 1,480 vehicles per hour. On the westbound lane in the afternoon HOV restricted period, speed degraded conditions also exist, with an average peak hour traffic volume of 1,430 vehicles per hour.

The Honorable Stephen D. Newman  
The Honorable Thomas Davis Rust  
Section 46.2-749.3 (A.3) Report  
September 12, 2014

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Garrett Moore, Chief Engineer,  
at 804-786-4798.

Sincerely

Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E.  
Commissioner of Highways

Cc: The Honorable Aubrey L. Layne  
Mr. Garrett Moore  
Ms. Helen Cuervo  
Mr. Jim Utterback  
Mr. Dean Gustafson  
Mr. Paul Szatkowski