

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City



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August 14, 2014

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Mr. Joseph C. Lawson
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
DC Division
1990 K Street, NW, Suite 510
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email: Christopher.lawson@dot.gov

Subject: Comments about the Final Environmental Impact Statement regarding the Reconstruction of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel

Dear Mr. Lawson:

Enclosed are the comments of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City on the Virginia Avenue tunnel FEIS. We appreciate the clarification provided at the July 31 Public Meeting that the record would be held open until today, August 14, to receive comments (Tr. 6 and 31). However the email response on Monday from Mr. Michael Hicks of your office to Mr. Christopher French (copied below for your convenience) confused and misled some to believe that comments on the FEIS would not be considered and thus may have deterred some from submitting comments today:

On Aug 11, 2014, at 4:08 PM, <Michael.Hicks@dot.gov> wrote:

I believe the meeting transcript will be posted within the next few hours or so; however, the public comment period ended after distribution of the Draft EIS (75 days after I believe) in July 2013 which was many months ago. In other words, there is no longer a public comment period; there is...was, a period of "review" for the VAT Final EIS which was extended from the required minimum 30 days to 60 days by request of Delegate Norton (as you can see it was extended) along with the request for an additional public meeting. The "review" period for the FEIS ends on August 14th. It does seem to be a bit ironic that you say: "If the transcript cannot be provided to me and/or publicly posted by the end of the day today, on behalf of the neighborhood I would like to request that the public comment period be extended..." which seems to imply that the transcript of the July 21st VAT meeting is required reading in determining what was written in the VAT FEIS...which was the very purpose of the July 21st meeting. That is an irony Mr. French. Thanks for the email, please monitor the VAT website within the next few hours for the requested transcript.

-Mike-

To partially offset any such misunderstanding, the Committee of 100 respectfully request that the record be held open until after the August 26 DC Council Oversight hearing and that the public be informed that comments may be submitted concerning the FEIS as well as information that results from the August 26th hearing.

Please feel free to contact me at monte.edwards@verizon.net with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Monte Edwards, Vice Chair

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