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As Gainesville District Supervisor, my job is to represent the citizens of the Gainesville District, and to make the tough decisions to fight for policies that will protect the quality of life for our families.

The proposed Tri-County Parkway ("TCP") has generated significant concern for me as new details of the planned road have been disclosed by VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). The details of the route; the issues of private property rights; potential impacts on commuters on Rt. 66; and whether the road will deliver on promised benefits to Prince William County are all a part of the deep concerns I have about the TCP.

I fully support my friend, Delegate Tim Hugo, and will stand shoulder to shoulder with him as we fight to represent the people of Western Prince William County against a road that has more questions than answers.

I have always been a strong advocate for attracting high-salary jobs to Prince William County, and I support the efforts of the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce and other business groups who work to advance this goal.

My concern is that we have not seen sufficient economic and forecasting data that is needed to determine if the TCP is the best transportation solution to speed access to and from Dulles Airport or that it will create high-paying jobs here in Prince William County.

I am equally concerned regarding the property rights of farmers and homeowners on Pageland Lane and Saunders Lane that this road will bring into question. The assurances of preserving state maintained transportation access for local roads are simply not clear under the current proposal. The road plan threatens to devalue property and diminish the investments made by families over generations, and plans for property access are not clear under the current proposal.

The decision by the CTB in February to approve the closure of Rt. 234 at the time of the opening of the Tri-County Parkway, rather than observing the earlier agreement to only close the Rt. 234 and Rt. 29 intersection when the alternate Battlefield Bypass was completed, clearly demonstrates that the interests of Gainesville residents are not being met. That posture by the CTB is simply unacceptable.

The current gridlock on I-66, that starts at the Gainesville interchange and continues eastward to I-495, will only become even worse when those two roads are closed to commuter traffic. The current gridlock for commuters on I-66 will be elevated to a catastrophe.

The people of Prince William County deserve a lot more answers to our concerns before we stand down from fighting the development of our historic, rural areas and I will continue to fight for their interests.

Best regards,

Pete Candland
Gainesville District Supervisor

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