



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Gregory A. Whirley  
Commissioner

September 14, 2012

Senator Stephen D. Newman  
Senate of Virginia  
Post Office Box 480  
Forest, Virginia 24551

Delegate Joe T. May  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Post Office Box 2146  
Leesburg, Virginia 20177

Dear Gentlemen:

I am pleased to submit this report in accordance with Chapter 743 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly. Chapter 743 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".

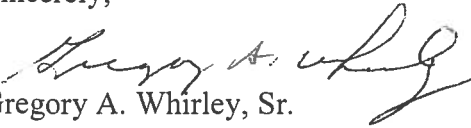
As defined by the SAFETEA-LU and the newly authorized MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century), a HOV facility is considered to be degraded if vehicles operating on the facility are failing to maintain a minimum average operating speed 90 percent of the time over a consecutive 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 a 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 lanes in the morning HOV restricted period, during which speed degraded conditions exist, is 1,570 vehicles per hour. On the westbound lanes in the afternoon HOV restricted period, speed degraded conditions also exist, with an average peak traffic volume of 1,520 vehicles per hour.

Letter to Senator Newman and Delegate May  
Chapter 743 report  
September 14, 2012

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Connie Sorrell at 804-786-1476.

Sincerely,

  
Gregory A. Whirley, Sr.  
Commissioner of Highways

Cc: The Honorable Sean T. Connaughton