

County of Shenandoah

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DISTRICT 1 – JOSH STEPHENS
 DISTRICT 2 – STEVE BAKER
 DISTRICT 3 – BRAD POLLACK
 DISTRICT 4 – KARL ROULSTON
 DISTRICT 5 – DENNIS MORRIS
 DISTRICT 6 – TIM TAYLOR

600 N. Main Street, Ste 102
 WOODSTOCK, VA 22664



Tel: 540.459.6165 Fax: 540.459.6168
www.shenandoahcountvva.us

OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

EVAN L. VASS
 COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MANDY R. BELYEA
 DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

October 11, 2022

Mr. Thomas L. Nelson, Jr.
 US Department of Transportation
 Federal Highway Administration
 400 North 8th Street, Suite 750
 Richmond, VA 23219-4825

RE: Corridor H: State Project X316-H-125.16, Federal Project NHPP(0484)118

Dear Mr. Nelson,

I am writing on behalf of Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors to share concerns on the development of a controlled access four-lane divided highway, identified as Corridor H, from Elkins, West Virginia to the West Virginia-Virginia boundary to connect with I-81 and/or I-66 in Virginia. The proposed routes for Corridor H being considered parallel or are in the proximity of Route 55 from the Virginia-West Virginia boundary, east of Wardensville, West Virginia, through Shenandoah County to connect with I-81 and/or I-66 near Strasburg, Virginia.

In 1993, Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution opposing construction of Corridor H in Virginia. Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors remain opposed to Corridor H construction in Virginia for the following reasons:

- Said route through Shenandoah County would likely be harmful to farms, private homes, and public-use facilities such as churches, community centers, lodges, etc.
- Perhaps most importantly, it would cause irreversible damage to some of our region's most significant historic resources: the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park and the Fishers Hill Civil War Battlefield.
 - In addition to being a National Park, listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a National Historic Landmark, Cedar Creek was determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission to be one of the 25 most important Civil War battlefields in the nation.
 - Fisher's Hill was also determined by the National Park Service and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to be National Register eligible.

It is our understanding that the Commonwealth of Virginia has never embraced a similar transportation vision for Corridor H in Virginia. In fact, the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) previously adopted, after numerous public hearings a resolution unanimously opposing the proposed highway.

There appear to be no benefits to the citizens of Shenandoah County that would result from constructing a Corridor H highway to connect with I-81 and/or I-66 near Strasburg, Virginia.

In fact, we believe that building an interstate of this magnitude to the Virginia line would have significant adverse impacts on communities in Shenandoah County and this must be considered before construction of the 6.8-mile section proposed from Wardensville to the Virginia state line begins.

Please find our attached resolution stating opposition by the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisor for plans to construct the Corridor H highway through Shenandoah County.

Sincerely,

Karl V. Roulston, Chairman
Shenandoah County Board of Supervisor

Cc: Mr. Travis Long, Director, WVDH

Encl: 2022 resolution

County of Shenandoah

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*DISTRICT 1 – JOSH STEPHENS
DISTRICT 2 – STEVE BAKER
DISTRICT 3 – BRAD POLLACK
DISTRICT 4 – KARL ROULSTON
DISTRICT 5 – DENNIS MORRIS
DISTRICT 6 – TIM TAYLOR*

600 N. Main Street, Ste 102
WOODSTOCK, VA 22664



Tel: 540.459.6165 Fax: 540.459.6168
www.shenandoahcountyva.us

OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

*EVAN L. VASS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR*

*MANDY R. BELYEA
DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR*

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING CORRIDOR H

WHEREAS, the West Virginia Department of Transportation has constructed portions of a controlled-access four-lane divided highway, identified as Corridor H, that it plans to build from Elkins, West Virginia to the West Virginia-Virginia boundary, and that it seeks to connect with I-81 and/or I-66 in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, one of the proposed routes being considered for construction of said Corridor H highway parallels or is in the proximity of Route 55 from the Virginia-West Virginia boundary, east of Wardensville, West Virginia, through Shenandoah County to connect with I-81 and/or I-66 near Strasburg, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, said route through Shenandoah County would likely be harmful to farms, private homes, and public-use facilities such as churches, community centers, lodges; and

WHEREAS, said route would cause irreversible damage to the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park and the Fishers Hill Civil War Battlefield; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board previously adopted, after numerous public hearings, a resolution opposing Corridor H construction in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, there does not appear to be benefit accruing to the citizens of Shenandoah County as a result of constructing said highway to connect with I-81 and/or I-66 near Strasburg, Virginia;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Shenandoah opposes the plans heretofore described to construct the Corridor H highway through Shenandoah County.

* * * * *