



December 8, 2022

Mr. Thomas L. Nelson, Jr.  
US Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
400 North 8<sup>th</sup> 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 the Strasburg Town Council 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 the town.

The Town of Strasburg opposes construction of Corridor H in Virginia for the following reasons:

- Said route through the northern end of Shenandoah County would end near the town and likely be harmful to farms, private homes, and public-use facilities, such as churches, community centers, lodges, in and around Strasburg.
- It would also likely negatively impact the town's vibrant tourism industry by causing irreversible damage to some of the area's most significant historic resources: the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park and the Fishers Hill Civil War Battlefield.

It is our understanding that the Commonwealth of Virginia hasn't ever and still doesn't include a similar transportation vision for Corridor H in Virginia. In fact, the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board previously adopted, after numerous public hearings unanimously in opposition to the proposed highway, a resolution opposing Corridor H construction in Virginia.

There appear to be no benefits to the citizens of Strasburg 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 impacts on communities in and around Strasburg 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 Strasburg Town Council for plans to construct the Corridor H ending near Strasburg.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandy H. Boies". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brandy H. Boies, Mayor  
Town of Strasburg

Cc: Mr. Travis Long, Director, WVDH

Atch: 2022 resolution



## 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 and ending near Strasburg 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 Strasburg 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 Strasburg Town Council opposes the plans heretofore described to construct the Corridor H highway through northern Shenandoah County ending near Strasburg.

Passed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

Brandy H. Boies, Mayor

Attest, Amy Keller, Clerk of Council

