

DONALD S. BEYER JR.
8TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(CHAIRMAN)

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
(CHAIR, SPACE AND AERONAUTICS SUBCOMMITTEE)

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4608

April 29, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, located at 2300 Wilson Blvd, Suite #230, Arlington, VA 22201.

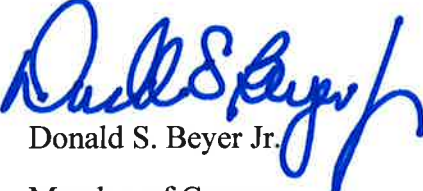
The funding would be used for to complete all planning and environmental studies necessary to enter design and construction of the Envision Route 7 BRT, a project that will connect diverse (economic and demographic) communities along the VA Route 7 corridor with high-quality, frequent transit service. Envision Route 7 BRT is a 14-mile transit project that will serve VA State Route 7 from the Mark Center in Alexandria to Tysons in Fairfax County, connecting through Bailey's Crossroads, Seven Corners and Falls Church. The project will provide direct access to Alexandria's West End Transit Way, East Falls Church Metro Station, developments adjacent to West Falls Church Metro, and the Spring Hill Metro Station.

This project will benefit taxpayers by enabling the timely completion a key planning step in advance of final design and construction. Once completed, the Envision Route 7 BRT will: 1) provide a reliable, affordable transportation option (especially for the most vulnerable communities along this corridor); 2) provide a green transportation option that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help in the battle against climate change; 3) reduce congestion along a key transportation corridor in Northern Virginia that is benefitting from significant economic development and investment; 4) leverage a range of Commonwealth, regional, and local transportation funds; 5) connect major employment centers (U.S. Department of Defense Mark Center, Bailey's Crossroads, Seven Corners, West Falls Church and Tysons); and 6) connect a robust and growing transit system in Northern Virginia.

Virginia State Route 7 is the second busiest bus transit corridor in the Commonwealth of Virginia, second only to Columbia Pike in Arlington. Even during the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, bus ridership along this corridor remained strong, demonstrating that quality bus transit is essential to the people who live, work and shop along the Route 7 corridor. Envision Route 7 BRT will provide a faster and more reliable connection to these economically and ethnically diverse communities with service features that will include dedicated lanes, traffic signal priority, off-board fare collection, elevated platforms and enhanced stations. It will be a transformation gateway to access opportunities throughout our region with direct access to Metro at Tysons and East Falls Church, as well as to the new Alexandria West End Transitway.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald S. Beyer Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Member of Congress