Transportation Resolution 2026-06

South County FEDERATION

Resolution requesting a Safety and Operational Evaluation of Left-Turn movements from Hassett Street to southbound Richmond Highway during the PM Peak Period

Whereas, Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) is a principal arterial roadway serving southern Fairfax County and carries substantial commuter, commercial, transit, and regional traffic;

Whereas, Hassett Street provides an important connection for residents, businesses, parks, and community destinations within the Lorton area;

Whereas, motorists traveling westbound on Hassett Street who seek to turn left onto southbound Richmond Highway frequently encounter extended delays during weekday afternoon peak travel periods due to heavy traffic volumes;

Whereas, prolonged delays in completing left-turn movements may encourage drivers to accept increasingly limited gaps in opposing traffic, thereby increasing the potential for severe angle and turning collisions;

Whereas, the intersection has experienced multiple traffic crashes over the years, including at least one fatal collision, disrupting traffic between Hassett and Gunston Cove Road, demonstrating the importance of continued evaluation of intersection safety and operations;

Whereas, improving safety at high-conflict intersections is consistent with the Commonwealth of Virginia's commitment to reducing serious injuries and traffic fatalities through data-driven transportation planning and engineering;

Whereas, transportation engineering best practices support evaluating intersection operations using traffic volumes, turning movement counts, crash history, sight distance, signal operations, roadway geometry, and projected future traffic demand;

Whereas, restricting selected turning movements during peak travel periods has been successfully implemented at other locations where operational and safety benefits outweigh impacts to motorists;

Whereas, any proposed operational changes should consider access to adjacent neighborhoods, businesses, emergency services, and alternative travel routes to ensure that community mobility is maintained;

Whereas, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has been actively evaluating a proposal to entirely prohibit left turns from Hassett Street onto Route 1;

Whereas, the South County Federation supports collaborative efforts among Fairfax County, VDOT, elected officials, community organizations, businesses, and residents to identify practical and cost-effective transportation safety improvements.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the South County Federation respectfully requests that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors ask the Virginia Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, to conduct a comprehensive safety and operational evaluation of the Hassett Street and Richmond Highway intersection.

Be It Further Resolved, that the evaluation include, at a minimum:

- Existing and projected traffic volumes;
- PM peak-hour turning movement counts;
- Crash history and collision patterns;
- Vehicle delay and queue lengths;
- Sight-distance analysis;
- Signal timing and intersection operations;
- Gap acceptance characteristics for left-turning vehicles;
- Potential impacts to emergency vehicle access;
- Pedestrian and bicycle operations;
- Access to nearby businesses and neighborhoods.

Be It Further Resolved, that the study specifically evaluate the feasibility, benefits, and impacts of:

- Prohibiting left-turn movements from Hassett Street onto southbound Richmond Highway during weekday afternoon peak periods;
- Alternative turning configurations;
- Signal timing modifications;
- Additional warning signage;
- Geometric improvements;
- Median modifications;
- Alternative routing strategies;
- Other operational improvements identified through engineering analysis.

Be It Further Resolved, That any recommendations include an evaluation of anticipated safety improvements, operational impacts, implementation costs, right-of-way considerations, and public outreach requirements.

President

7/15/2026
Date