

Office of the School Board

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July 21, 2011

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors 401 McIntire Road Charlottesville, VA 22902

Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization P.O. Box 1505 Charlottesville, VA 22902-1505

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization:

The Albemarle County School Board is aware of the opportunity for the Commonwealth Transportation Board to fund significant highway projects for the County in the FY 2012-17 Six-Year Improvement Program.

The School Board and the Superintendent are highly concerned about the impact of the US 29 Bypass on several of our schools. The planned highway will require taking some School Board land from our largest campus and will pass very close to Greer Elementary School and an athletic field at Jouett Middle School, and will encroach upon an athletic field at Greer Elementary. You should know that we are in the process of building an expansion to Greer Elementary that will be closer to the proposed highway than the current building.

Highways such as the US 29 Bypass are known sources of significant noise and air pollution, especially with the expected heavy truck traffic. We believe that the children of Albemarle County must be protected from hazards and that the ambient noise level should be appropriate for learning and recreation. Common methods for remediation of highway noise include construction of sound barriers and earth berms. The School Board and Superintendent strongly believe that construction of the US 29 Bypass must include sufficient remediation to insulate the Greer Elementary and Jouett Middle school buildings and fields from traffic noise, along with relocation of the athletic field at Greer Elementary.

The School Board and Superintendent respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors and MPO include a requirement for the inclusion of a sound barrier for the US 29 Bypass that meets the standards of the Federal Highway Administration. We also request relocation of the athletic field at Greer Elementary. Our children deserve the safest and quietest environment possible while attending County schools, and we trust that you will support our request. Please direct any questions or dialogue to Mr.

Josh Davis, Interim Chief Operating Officer for the School Division, who can be reached at (434) 296-5877 or <a href="mailto:jdavis@k12albemarle.org">jdavis@k12albemarle.org</a>.

Sincerely,

Steve Koleszar

Chairman, Albemarle County School Board

Pamela Moran

Superintendent, Albemarle County Public Schools