



Resolution on Hot Lanes and Low Salt Option October 3, 2012

WHEREAS, the new 495 Express Lanes on the Beltway are expected to open at the end of this year; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the headwaters of Scotts Run lie in Tysons Corner and under the I-267/I-495 Interchange at the Toll Road; and

WHEREAS, the Tysons Corner Plan incorporates stringent stormwater management requirements and the HOT Lanes were constructed under less strict State standards, and

WHEREAS, Scotts Run parallels the 495 Express Lanes to Old Dominion Drive where it crosses under the Beltway and flows through the Fairfax County Park Authority's 380 acre Scotts Run Nature Preserve to the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, these lanes have significantly increased the amount of impervious surface, and new larger culverts will direct stormwater runoff into the stream; and

WHEREAS, the Beltway is heavily pre-treated with salt and deicing chemicals when a winter weather event is predicted and is heavily treated with salt and sand once it snows to keep travel lanes clear; and

WHEREAS, it is well documented that salt and deicing chemicals that wash into nearby streams decrease water quality and create a toxic environment for living creatures in streams in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, some states such as Massachusetts now have programs using reduced-salt compounds to protect public water supplies and wells; and

WHEREAS, VDOT/TransUrban will be responsible for snow removal on the 495 Express Lanes and the Beltway.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MCA requests that before cold weather arrives this season, the Virginia Department of Transportation evaluate using a low-salt option on this specific segment of the 495 Express Lanes and Beltway in order to protect water quality in Scotts Run and the Scotts Run Nature Preserve.

Be it Further Resolved, that Fairfax County staff be requested to consider additional water quality monitoring along this segment of the Beltway following storm events.

*Approved by the MCA Board of Directors
October 3, 2012*

Copies to:

Dranesville Supervisor, John Foust

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Sharon Bulova

FCDOT Director, Tom Biseiadny

Garrett Moore, VDOT NoVA District Administrator

State Senator, Barbara Favola

State Delegate, Barbara Comstock