

2
10-17-15

**A statement by Bert Ely to City Council on behalf of
Friends of the Alexandria Waterfront regarding truck
haul routes for waterfront construction projects**

October 17, 2015

Mr. Mayor and members of Council I am Bert Ely, a co-chair of Friends of the Alexandria Waterfront (FAW). I am speaking today on behalf of FAW with regard to truck haul routes related to current and future waterfront construction projects.

As you know, there have been numerous complaints from residents about haul-route violations – heavily loaded trucks traveling on streets that are not designated haul routes. The volume of complaints could potentially be many times greater as the pace of waterfront construction accelerates and with multiple projects underway – Carr, the Boat Club, and the two Robinson Terminal projects.

To some extent, these haul-route violations are due to poor signage, and more specifically inconsistent and confusing signage. Attached to my statement are photos of a sampling of the haul-route signs that have been posted on Old Town streets in connection with the Carr hotel project at Duke and South Union. I could provide many more examples of inconsistent, confusing, and erroneous signage.

I have raised this signage problem in meetings of the Waterfront Construction Ad Hoc Monitoring Group where staff has acknowledged that better signage is needed. There also is the challenge of providing accurate signage when multiple projects are underway, as will be the case along the waterfront over the next few years.

To reduce the potential for an even higher volume of truck haul-route violations over the next few years, I have attached to my statement illustrations of simple, uniform haul-route signage that I recommend be used for designating all haul routes related to waterfront construction projects. I realize that these signs may not conform in all regards with highway-sign design standards but I am confident that properly conforming signs can be produced reflecting these design ideas.

While barging is the much preferred way to move dirt from and to waterfront construction sites, there still will be substantial truck traffic pounding over Old Town streets. Therefore, I urge Council to direct staff to develop and install in the waterfront area uniform haul-route signage as part of an overall initiative to ensure that construction-related trucks traveling over Old Town streets in the coming years stick to their assigned routes.

On a related topic, I encourage Council to direct staff to consult openly with residents about haul-route options before finalizing truck haul routes. Today, the route-selection process is not transparent -- affected residents only know about routes after they have been finalized. That is hardly a transparent process and most unfair.

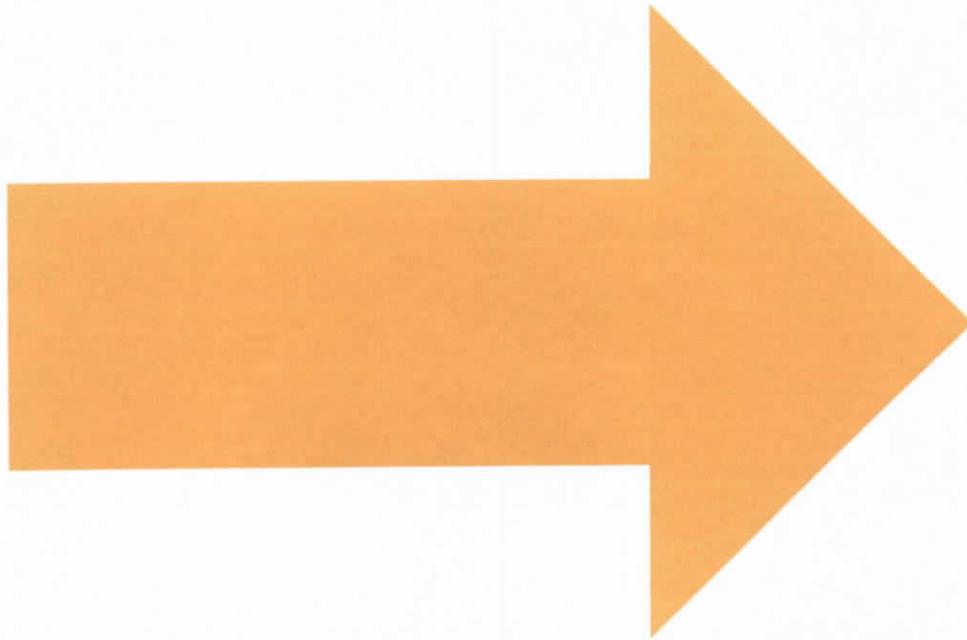
Consultation with residents living on potential haul routes may be time-consuming and even contentious, but it will produce far better outcomes than the present behind-closed-door route-selection process.

Thank you for your time today. I welcome your questions.



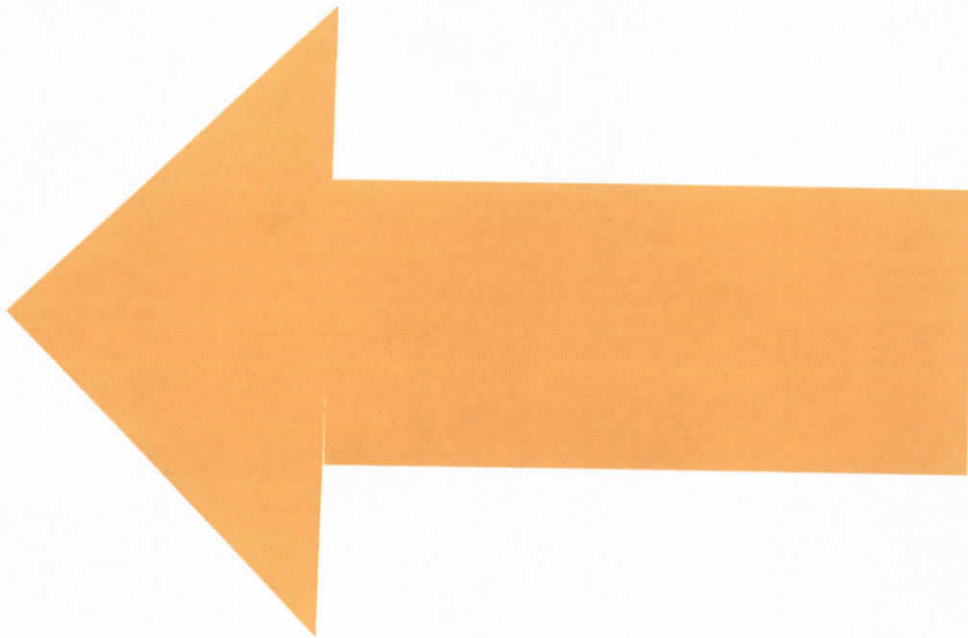


**Proposed
Alexandria waterfront
haul-route signage**



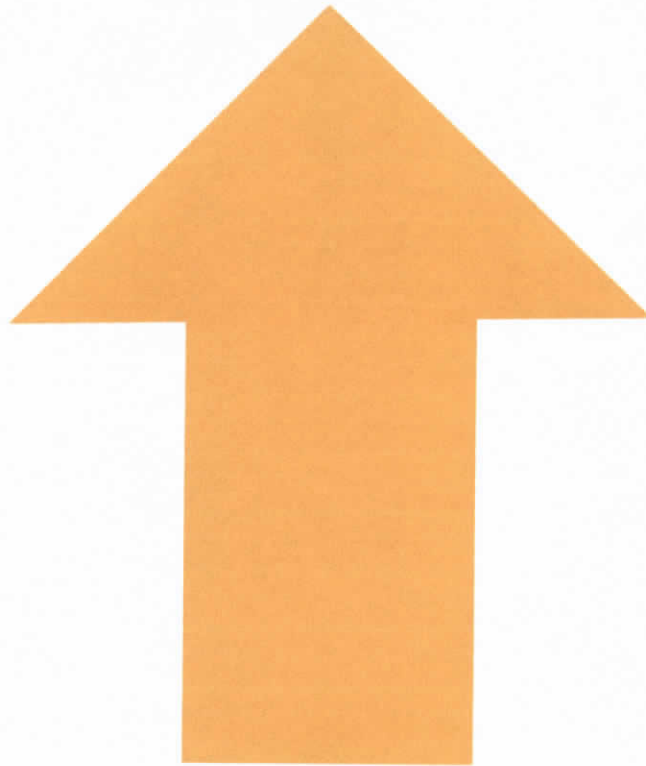
**Haul
Route**

**Proposed
Alexandria waterfront
haul-route signage**



**Haul
Route**

**Proposed
Alexandria waterfront
haul-route signage**



**Haul
Route**

As I have been appearing before this body for fifteen years speaking on the same topic, it is probably no surprise why I am here today. Mr. Mayor and members of Council, my name is Gary Carr. I will begin with a few comments on your response to the horrific shootings at a South Carolina church. The removal of the Confederate flag from the Charleston Capitol grounds caused retrospection about Civil War symbols across the South. This body has moved to restrict flying the Confederate flag and review street names and symbols. There is only one symbol that deserves your immediate attention- Jefferson Davis Highway. Jefferson Davis was notorious character. President of the Confederacy, he was a traitor, racist, owner of over 100 slaves, and a coward who fled and never acknowledge the victory of the United States of America (unlike General Robert E. Lee). He is noted for saying that captured black Union soldiers should be summarily executed or enslaved. He has no significant connection to Alexandria, Virginia (unlike Lee), and hardly deserves the high place of honor of the main thoroughfare in the City. I could go on, but want to make one additional point. Someone, has changed the name to "Jeff" Davis Highway and used some super large type. "Jeff" was a term of endearment the rebels used for that turncoat. Jeff is not the name of that road and never should be. The other street names and statues are inconsequential, Route 1 deserves your immediate attention.

That leaves me with but a moment to address my ongoing cause- the track at GW Middle School. As this is an election year and I know you are all great candidates, how do you decide who to vote for? I say use the running track as a barometer. For example do you think one regulation track is enough for the entire City. Do you think there is an economic opportunity case for a eight-lane track. How would you develop the GW/Braddock field site? Why is there no plan, and what is your plan? As you see the running track can be a real conversation starter on development, educational policy, childhood obesity and much more. That case is clear after fifteen years, if you build it, they will run.