Virginia transportation secretary challenged over I-66 numbers

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (the Alliance) has challenged Virginia Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne to release the entire I-66 study. Layne maintained that a design-build delivery model could deliver savings of over USD 1bn compared to a P3 during a presentation before the Commonwealth Transportation Board on 19 May.

The Alliance called on Layne to make the basis and methodology behind the calculations in a publicized release. Their release also asks questions of the availability of federal funding for such a project and the consequences if toll revenue projects come up short.

Calls to Layne’s office regarding the challenge were not returned.

A Virginia P3 spokesperson last week informed InfraAmericas that the numbers presented by Layne are going to change. “The figures presented to the Public-Private Advisory Committee will account for all of the life cycle costs and risk elements associated with the project,” the spokesperson said.

Delivery model decision
The Public Private Advisory Committee will determine which delivery model will be used to procure the project in July.

The committee is part of Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s recent P3 reform legislation. The bill, which will become law on 1 July, is intended to provide greater transparency with regard to P3 procurements.

A recommendation on the delivery model will therefore not be made until that date.

The committee consists of a cross section of personnel including two members of the CTB and VDOT as well as CFO John Lawson and Deputy Transportation Secretary Grindly Johnson. A member of the Secretary of the Treasury’s office and two members of the General Assembly will complete the committee.

The CTB’s next meeting is scheduled for 15 July. The body will not meet again until 15 September.

Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
According to their website, The Alliance is a private sector organization focused exclusively on working to make better transportation a reality for Northern Virginia citizens and businesses.

The full release can be found here: http://www.nvta.org/