

Leaders propose bridge study

3rd Potomac River crossing suggested

By **CLARISSA SPASYK**
Journal staff writer

With the availability of Virginia transportation dollars in question for the next six years, two Northern Virginia congressmen are renewing their request that state officials study the feasibility of building another Potomac River bridge.

In a letter Tuesday, Reps. Thomas M. Davis III, R-11th District, and James P. Moran, D-8th District, asked Gov. Mark R. Warner to direct the Virginia Department of Transportation to conduct an analysis of highway traffic on Interstate 495's American Legion Bridge and on the Route 15 bridge over the Potomac River in Loudoun County.

"We believe that updated traffic data in this corridor will enable policymakers to better prepare for future demands on the Northern Virginia region's transportation infrastructure," the two congressmen wrote.

"It is our hope that the previously budgeted \$400,000 [or a new allocation] can be immediately made available to conduct an origin and destination study with the resulting data made available to the public within the next six months," the letter states.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board has been holding public hearings around the state to discuss road projects, formerly outlined in the now-defunct six-year plan. In May, the board will release a tentative plan, a spokeswoman said Wednesday.

Inside

Wilson
Bridge critics warn of
high cost/
A7