

Manassas friends stand opposed

The Civil War heritage group, Friends of Manassas National Battlefield Park, has stood opposed to proposed construction around the battlefield site.

A resolution supporting the group's position, as well as its general plan of action, reads:

"Reject ALL Proposed Bypass Corridors north of I-66:

"We believe a bypass alignment should be rejected if by its presence, on the border of or within the Manassas Battlefield, that bypass would demean the integrity of the Bat-

tlefield and degrade the interpretation of the Battlefield by intruding on the historic landscape and/or by projecting traffic noise into the Battlefield;

"We believe a bypass alignment should be rejected if that bypass would invite encroachment by commercial and residential development up to the very borders of the Battlefield;

"We believe a bypass alignment should be rejected if that bypass would devastate communities by devaluing private property and corrupting the quality of life of the Battle-

field's neighbors.

"The Friends adamantly reject ALL of the revised northern Manassas Battlefield bypass alignments because any combination of these alignments employed as Routes 29 and 234 bypasses would

degrade and demean the Battlefield, invite development and added traffic on the borders of the Battlefield, and devastate the communities neighboring the Battlefield.

"Advocate Collocating Route 29 onto I-66:
"We believe that adding

lanes to I-66 to accommodate the collocation of Route 29 would be the most effective bypass option by more efficiently relieving traffic congestion.

"Since the southern border of the Battlefield is already corrupted, collocating Route 29 onto I-66 would not further degrade nor demean the Battlefield, would not invite additional development on the border of the Battlefield, and would not devastate neighboring communities, the Friends wholeheartedly advocate collocating

Route 29 onto an enhanced I-66 between Gainesville and Centreville.

"Advocate Closing Routes 29 and 234 to through traffic within the Battlefield:

"Commuter traffic and visitor traffic within the Battlefield are mutually incompatible.

"Visitors are discouraged from fully exploring the Manassas battlefield, and their experience in the Park is degraded by the intrusion of busy highways into the historic landscape and the constant distraction of traffic noise.