



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

Sean T. Connaughton
Chairman

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Agenda item # 17

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

September 15, 2010

MOTION

Made By: Dr. Davis Seconded By: Mr. McCarthy
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Ability of the Commonwealth Transportation Board to Meet Legislative Mandates

WHEREAS, § 33.1-12 (9)(b) of the *Code of Virginia*, requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board (Board) to adopt by July 1 of each year a Six-Year Improvement Program of anticipated projects and programs and that the Program shall be based on the most recent official revenue forecasts and a debt management policy; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is required by §§ 33.1-12 (9) and (11) of the *Code of Virginia* to administer and allocate funds in the Transportation Trust Fund; and,

WHEREAS, § 33.1-12 (9)(b) of the *Code of Virginia* provides that the Board is to coordinate the planning for financing of transportation needs, including needs for highways, railways, seaports, airports, and public transportation and is to allocate funds for these needs pursuant to §§ 33.1-23.1 and 58.1-638, by adopting a Six-Year Improvement Program; and,

WHEREAS, § 58.1-638 of the *Code of Virginia* authorizes allocations to local governing bodies, transportation district commissions, or public service corporations for, among other things, capital project costs for public transportation and ridesharing equipment, facilities, and associated costs; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 874, Item 436 of the 2010 Acts of the Assembly states that (i) maintenance of existing transportation assets to ensure the safety of the public shall be the first priority in budgeting, allocation, and spending, and (ii) that the Secretary is authorized to take actions necessary to ensure that federal transportation funds are allocated and used for the maximum benefit of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, § 33.1-23.1 of the *Code of Virginia* states that the Commonwealth Transportation Board shall allocate each year from all funds made available for highway purposes such amount as it deems reasonable and necessary for the maintenance of roads within the interstate system of highways, the primary system of state highways, the secondary system of state highways and for city and town street maintenance payments made pursuant to § 33.1-41.1 of the *Code of Virginia* and payments made to counties which have withdrawn or elect to withdraw from the secondary system of state highways pursuant to § 33.1-23.5:1 of the *Code of Virginia*; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's maintenance needs continue to grow as the infrastructure ages, current funding levels will delay achieving established targets for pavement conditions, and the number of deficient bridges continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's construction needs continue to grow as vehicle miles travelled (VMT) outpace population growth, a conclusion supported by findings that the Commonwealth has the eighth highest average commute time to work in the nation, and that, by the year 2035, 75% of the Interstate and 29% of the Primary system are anticipated to be deficient; and,

WHEREAS, \$2.8 billion has been cut from the Six-Year Improvement Program since fiscal year 2009 requiring the Board to take the following actions – reduced all available state funds from projects; restricted funding to projects that are underway or expected to be underway in the current federal fiscal year; eliminated state formula distributions for unpaved roads, primary, secondary and urban systems; eliminated federal STP formula distribution to individual localities and regions, concentrating STP funds on underway projects, bridges, and paving; and eliminated the bond component of revenue sharing in FY 2011.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commonwealth Transportation Board that the Board is concerned about its ability to meet its legislative mandates with the current level of funding made available to it and is also concerned that without additional funding at the discretion of the General Assembly and Executive Branch, that economic competitiveness and safety will be harmed for citizens of the Commonwealth.

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