



Legislative Update
General Assembly 2019
Developments from Reconvened Session

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Transportation Bill Amendments Proposed by the Governor

- **HB 1911:** Move over law-reckless driving penalty enhancement for certain stationary vehicles. Proposed Amendment: To apply enhanced penalty for failing to move over for VDOT incident management vehicles, tow vehicles, utility vehicles, construction vehicles with yellow lights. ***House Concurred, Senate Rejected***
- **SB 1521:** Photo speed monitoring/enforcement in work zones: Second reenactment requirement in 2020 and review of use and constitutionality of dedicating penalties to fund other than Literary Fund. ***GA Concurred***
- **SB 1768:** Use of handheld personal communication devices prohibited while driving in work zones. Proposed Amendments: Prohibit use of such devices while driving (anywhere) and provide exemption to VDOT when responding to incidents. ***Senate Concurred, House Rejected (Not Germane)***

Transportation Bill Amendments Proposed by the Governor

HB 2718/SB 1716: Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Fund and
Program

Transportation-Related Budget Amendments Proposed by the Governor (HB 1700)

- **Amendment 19:** Secretary to evaluate opportunities to mitigate financial burden on commuters at Downtown and Midtown Tunnel. Report due June 30, 2020. ***GA concurred***
- **Amendment 20:** HOV Requirement of at least 2 for a HOT lane PPTA facility with initial construction cost > \$3 billion and whose operation, maintenance or financing is not a result of the same comprehensive agreement for the facility's construction. ***GA concurred***
- **Amendments 29 and 33:** Courts prohibited from suspending driver's licenses solely for failure to pay fines and costs. Driver's license reinstatement fees waived for fines/costs suspensions and funding provided to DMV for lost revenues. ***GA concurred***

New Studies/Reports Required by 2019 Session

- **HB 1700: Item 361 #1c: Virginia Capital Trail.** Secretaries of Natural Resources/Transportation to convene stakeholders group and assess transfer of sponsorship and maintenance support of Trail to Department of Conservation and Recreation.
Assessment Due 10/1/2019
- **HB 1700 Item 433 #1c: Sustainability of Transportation Funding.** Secretary of Transportation/CTB to direct VDOT to establish working group to evaluate the impact of increased fuel efficiency/increased use of hybrid/electric vehicles on transportation revenues and options to provide a sustainable funding stream for transportation infrastructure.
Report of Findings Due 12/10/2019
- **HB 1700 Item 433: Elizabeth River Crossings.** Secretary of Transportation to evaluate opportunities to mitigate financial burden on commuters at Downtown/Midtown Tunnels. ***Report due 6/30/ 2020***

New Studies/Reports Required by 2019 Session

- **HB 2315: At-Risk Infrastructure Report.** Failed, but House Rules Chair issued a letter directing VDOT to identify transportation infrastructure at risk of wind or tidal flooding and make recommendations to address such infrastructure.
Report due 1/1/2020
- **HB 2326: Statewide Prioritization Process; primary evacuation routes.** Failed, but House Transportation Chair to issue a letter directing VDOT to provide report identifying evacuation routes and how they are established.
- **HB 2633: Statewide Prioritization Process; congestion mitigation.** Failed, but House Transportation Chair to issue letter directing study of congestion factor impact in SMART SCALE prioritization process.

New Studies/Reports Required by 2019 Session

- **HB 2718/SB 1716: Interstate 81-Related Reports.**
 - CTB to report annually on status and progress of implementation of I-81 Program after consultation with I-81 Committee. Report to include, at a minimum: safety and performance of corridor; assessment of effectiveness of operational strategies and capital projects; status of capital projects funded through the Program; and current and projected balances of the I-81 Fund.
Report due 12/15 each year
 - I-81 Committee to report to GA and Governor recommendations for funding and prioritization of projects in I-81 Corridor Improvement Plan adopted by CTB on December 15, 2018. Committee to conduct regional meetings and gather input from public and stakeholders regarding options for funding and improvements. ***Report due 12/15/2019***

New Studies/Reports Required by 2019 Session

- **HB 2784/SB 1749: Robert O. Norris Bridge/Statewide Special Structure Fund.**
 - ❑ CTB to undertake a comprehensive review of current and future condition of pavements and bridges in the Commonwealth. Minimum requirements:
 - i. consider current conditions/performance targets of pavements and bridges;
 - ii. consider current investment strategies of the HMOF and State of Good Repair Program;
 - iii. recommend new performance targets for pavements/bridges with sustainable performance over a 20-year period; and
 - iv. develop investment strategy for the HMOF and the State of Good Repair Program to achieve sustainable performance targets, including a plan to address funding needs of large and unique bridges and tunnels. **Report Due 12/1/2019**
 - ❑ CTB to review feasibility of using PPTA to design/build/operate/maintain Norris Bridge and Downing Bridge.
 - ❑ Requires the Commissioner to report on use of moneys in the RNBSSS Fund. **Report due 11/30 each year**

New Studies/Reports Required by 2019 Session

- **HB 2800/SB1775: Overweight Vehicles.** Commissioner of Highways to report annually certain data/information relating to overweight trucks and incidents/crashes; maintenance and infrastructure needs of routes frequented by overweight trucks; and additional vehicle miles necessary if vehicles not permitted to carry overweight loads. If data unavailable, no requirement to establish collection methodology. ***Report due 12/1 in 2019 and 2020***
- **HJR 581/SJR 276: I-95 Corridor Study.** CTB to study I-95 corridor between Exit 118 and the Springfield Interchange and financing options for improvements to the corridor and develop I-95 Corridor Improvement Plan. VRE improvements, high speed rail and transit improvements to be considered as means of reducing congestion. ***Report due 1st day of 2020 GA Session***

New Studies/Reports Required by 2019 Session

- **SB 1535: Sign Inspection Requirements.** Stakeholders working group will be convened to study alternatives and recommendations/draft legislation for imposing sign inspection requirements for certain signs along interstates that pose a threat to traffic safety due to height. **Will be completed in time to allow for pre-filed legislation.**
- **SJR 254: Dulles Greenway.** VDOT to study the feasibility of purchasing all or part of the Dulles Greenway. Among other things VDOT is required to evaluate the feasibility of distance-based tolling on the Dulles Greenway. **Report Due 1st day of 2020 GA Session**
- **HB 2737: DRPT - Rail Signage.** DRPT, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, is to evaluate the placement, maintenance, cost and potential funding sources of highway signs to (i) indicate the presence/direction of nearby Amtrak or intercity passenger rail stations and (ii) promote the use of such services. **Report due 12/1/2019**

New Studies/Reports Required by 2019 Session (Tentative)

- **HJR 629: Midtown and Downtown Tunnels Report.** Directs JLARC to study the feasibility of reducing or eliminating tolls on the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels in Hampton Roads. Legislation Failed, but JLARC may exercise discretion to conduct a study.