



Virginia's Urban Crescent

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December 7, 2012

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia

The Honorable William T. Bolling
Lieutenant Governor

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Majority Leader
Senate of Virginia

The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox
Majority Leader
Virginia House of Delegates

Fredericksburg Area General Assembly Delegation
Hampton Roads General Assembly Delegation
Northern Virginia General Assembly Delegation
Petersburg Area General Assembly Delegation
Richmond Area General Assembly Delegation

The Honorable William J. Howell
Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable Richard L. Saslaw
Minority Leader
Senate of Virginia

The Honorable David J. Toscano
Minority Leader
Virginia House of Delegates

Dear Governor McDonnell, Lieutenant Governor Bolling and Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

Local elected officials and business leaders within the Urban Crescent have come together to discuss the transportation funding crisis currently facing the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are all aware that:

1. No State transportation dollars are available for distribution through the construction "formula" for State primary, secondary or urban system roads.
2. By 2017, the Commonwealth will be unable to fully match federal funds.
3. The State's Highway Maintenance and Operating (HMO) fund is insolvent and must seize/appropriate \$500 million per year from the State's Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) to perform basic maintenance.
4. \$3B per year in revenue for major highway and transit construction projects is needed in the Urban Crescent over the next 20 years.

The Urban Crescent Mayors and Chairs and business leaders of the Chambers of Commerce met jointly on November 16, 2012 to discuss common concerns regarding our transportation funding crisis. The Commonwealth can no longer afford to continue to take a wait-and-see attitude. CNBC's rankings of "America's Top States for Business"

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downgraded Virginia's ranking for infrastructure and transportation from #10 to #33. "Business as usual" is no longer acceptable.

The Urban Crescent Mayors and Chairs and the CEOs of the Chambers of Commerce respectfully request that State elected leaders come together to develop an effective business-type approach to solve critical maintenance and construction funding problems. It has been 26 years since Virginia's funding system for transportation maintenance and construction has been modified. Since then, the per gallon rate of the State's gas tax has not been adjusted for inflation or taken into account the substantial increase in vehicle fuel economy. The purchasing power of this critical revenue stream is half of what it was in the fall of 1986. No other "public utility" in Virginia has gone 26 years without any basic adjustments to its business model. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth of Virginia has neglected necessary adjustments of the State's transportation revenue to account for even simple inflation. At this point, only action by the Commonwealth can solve our collective problem.

We the undersigned do hereby strongly recommend that the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and all members of the Virginia General Assembly give due consideration to appropriately address and align the State's Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund, the Transportation Trust Fund, and the Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital Fund with our immediate and long-term needs for road and transit funding. We believe proposals to solve the transportation funding crisis must meet the following principles:

1. The solution should be statewide.
2. The solution requires broad new transportation revenue enhancements.
3. All transportation revenue should be dedicated for transportation (roads, transit, intercity rail, bike and pedestrian facilities) purposes only.
4. The solution may include income or other tax offsets so long as a sufficient amount of revenue is generated to address needs.
5. The solution must include maintenance and operating needs of existing infrastructure and transportation facilities as well as road and transit capacity expansions.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss, coordinate and collaborate with you and assist you with the development of solutions. We strongly believe we can come together, as leaders within the Commonwealth, to effectively solve this great State's transportation funding problems for our current residents and their children and grandchildren.

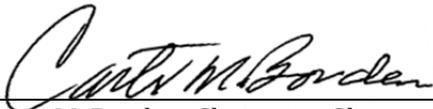
Sincerely,

The Mayors and Chairs of Virginia's Urban Crescent &
The CEOs of Virginia's Urban Crescent Chambers of Commerce

DLF/kp



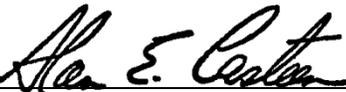
Nader Baroukh, Mayor, City of Falls Church



Carter M. Borden, Chairman, Gloucester County



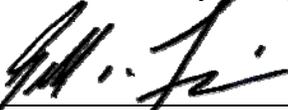
Sharon Bulova, Chair, Fairfax County



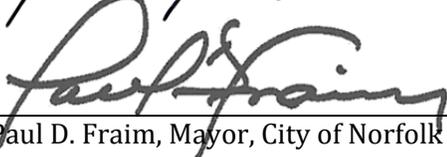
Alan E. Casteen, Chairman, Isle of Wight County



William D. Euille, Mayor, City of Alexandria



Gerald M. Foreman, Mayor, Town of Dumfries



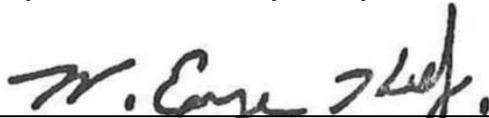
Paul D. Fraim, Mayor, City of Norfolk



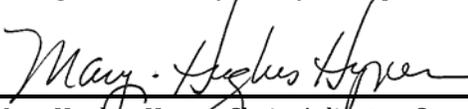
Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Mayor City of Fredericksburg



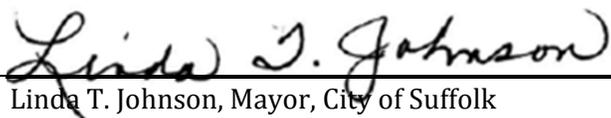
Clyde A. Haulman, Mayor, City of Williamsburg



W. Eugene Hunt, Mayor, City of Poquoson



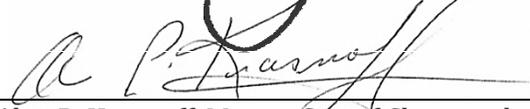
Mary Hughes Hynes, Chair, Arlington County



Linda T. Johnson, Mayor, City of Suffolk



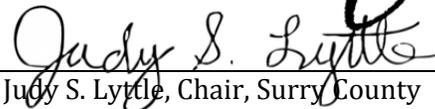
Frank Jones, Mayor, City of Manassas Park



Alan P. Krasnoff, Mayor, City of Chesapeake



Robert W. Lazaro, Mayor, Town of Purcellville



Judy S. Lyttle, Chair, Surry County



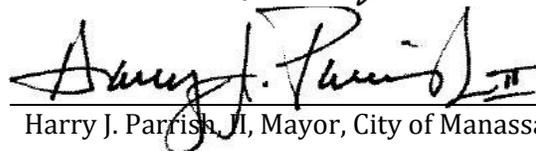
John T. McGlenon, Chair, James City County



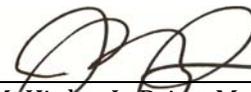
Lisa C. Merkel, Mayor, Town of Herndon



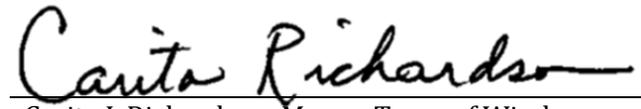
Harrison A. Moody, Chairman, Dinwiddie County



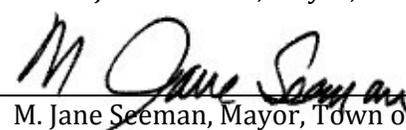
Harry J. Parrish, Jr, Mayor, City of Manassas



McKinley L. Price, Mayor, City of Newport News



Carita J. Richardson, Mayor, Town of Windsor

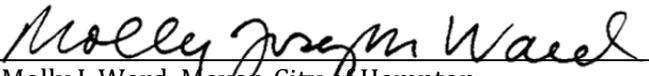


M. Jane Seeman, Mayor, Town of Vienna



William D. Sessoms, Mayor, City of Virginia Beach


Thomas G. Shepperd, Chairman, York County

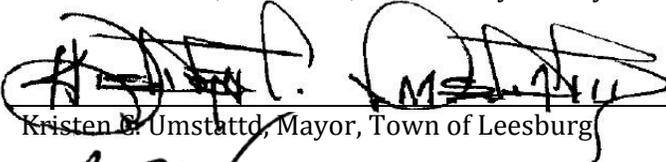

Molly J. Ward, Mayor, City of Hampton

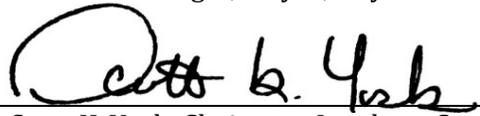

R. Scott Silverthorne, Mayor, City of Fairfax

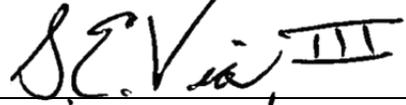

T. Carter Williams, Mayor, Town of Smithfield


Gilbert A. Smith, Chairman, Charles City County

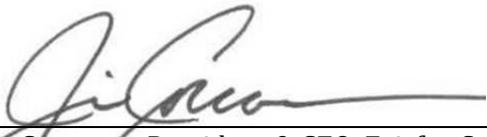

Kenneth I. Wright, Mayor, City of Portsmouth

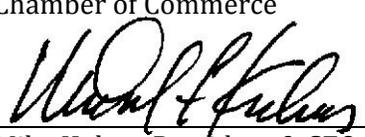

Kristen B. Umstattd, Mayor, Town of Leesburg

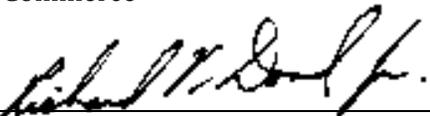

Scott K. York, Chairman, Loudoun County

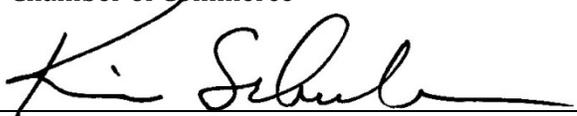

G. Ed Via, III, Chairman, Hanover County

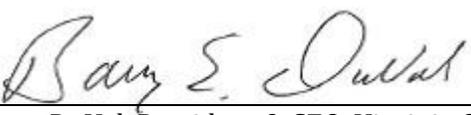

Robert H. Clapper, II, President, Prince William Chamber of Commerce

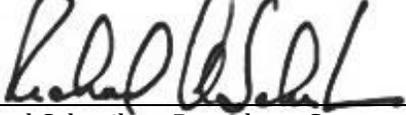

Jim Corcoran, President & CEO, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce

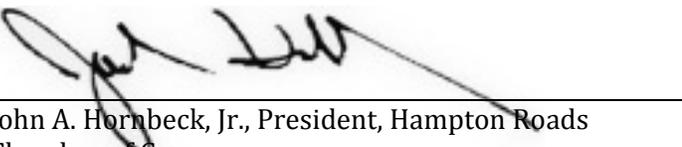

Mike Kuhns, President & CEO, Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

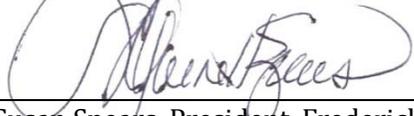

Rich Doud, President, Arlington Chamber of Commerce


Kim Scheeler, President & CEO, Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce


Barry DuVal, President & CEO, Virginia Chamber of Commerce


Richard Schreiber, President, Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance


John A. Hornbeck, Jr., President, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce


Susan Spears, President, Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce


Tony Howard, President & CEO, Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce