



# Virginia's Urban Crescent

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 RICHMOND  
 SMITHFIELD  
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 SURRY  
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 VIENNA  
 VIRGINIA BEACH  
 WILLIAMSBURG  
 WINDSOR  
 YORK

September 4, 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:

As local elected officials within the Urban Crescent, we appreciate your past efforts to address transportation funding. However, we have become increasingly alarmed by the transportation funding crisis currently facing the Commonwealth. We are writing to you to highlight the necessity for additional funding to address transportation infrastructure needs throughout our state.

On June 7, 2012, local elected officials from throughout the Crescent, which encompasses localities from Northern Virginia through the Richmond region to Hampton Roads, met to discuss these critical issues that affect the daily lives of all our residents. The consensus at the meeting was that Virginia's transportation system is significantly underfunded and the situation continues to deteriorate, as evidenced by some startling facts:

- State secondary and urban system construction funds have been eliminated.
- By 2017, no state funds will be available for highway construction, and the Commonwealth will be unable to fully match federal funds.
- Approximately 26 percent of VDOT-maintained roadways statewide are in poor condition, according to VDOT. However, that number is 34 percent for the Urban Crescent, including 39 percent in Northern Virginia, 36 percent in Hampton Roads and 31 percent in Richmond.

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- Only 66 percent of Virginia's secondary roads currently meet pavement performance targets. The cost, using VDOT's estimates, of meeting VDOT's goal of 82 percent of secondary roads in fair or better condition could be \$1.3 billion to \$1.8 billion.
- As localities continue to address congestion by providing more transit options, transit funding provided by the Commonwealth is far short of what is needed.
- In the Richmond area, commuters waste 20 hours per year stuck in traffic.
- In Hampton Roads, commuters waste 34 hours, and in
- Northern Virginia, commuters waste 74 hours.
- The morning and evening rush hours in the Urban Crescent last as long as two and a half to seven hours each day.

While a strong transportation system is important to all regions of the Commonwealth, it is particularly critical to the Urban Crescent. Although the Urban Crescent only comprises 24 percent of the land area in Virginia, it comprises 68 percent of the population and generates 79 percent of the gross product of Virginia. We also experience some of the worst traffic in the nation, and the condition of our roads and bridges continues to decline.

Virginians from all walks of life depend on a strong transportation network – allowing residents to travel to job sites, educational institutions, leisure activities and other places they need to reach in daily life. An efficient transportation network links communities; sustains our important tourism industry; maintains Virginia's critical role as a hub of national security efforts; allows businesses to move goods and provide services; and spurs economic development by drawing new businesses and revenues to our state every year. The Urban Crescent's economic health is vital to the Commonwealth, and without new investments in multimodal transportation, each of our regions' economies will decline, resulting in less revenue available to meet the myriad of Virginia's needs. These repercussions are already beginning to be felt, as evidenced by the recent CNBC Rankings of "America's Top States for Business." In the study, which was released on July 13, 2012, the Commonwealth's overall ranking in state competitiveness dropped from #1 to #3, and its ranking for Infrastructure and Transportation dropped from #10 to #33.

Though various efforts have been made in recent years to address the Commonwealth's transportation needs, adequate and sustainable solutions have not been achieved. We believe that the time for action is now, and that inaction is a "traffic tax" on our localities, our residents, our visitors, and our businesses, through decreased productivity, diminished quality of life, higher fuel costs, higher maintenance costs, and increased pollution. In that regard, we have endorsed the attached "Statement of Purpose," which asserts the need for further state investment in transportation infrastructure spending for all transportation modes. It is essential that this new investment come from stable, reliable, permanent, and balanced sources.

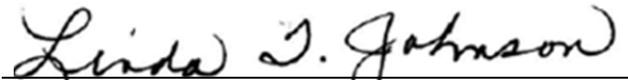
We welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you and to assist you with the development of a solution. We look forward to your leadership on this issue. We understand that our representatives cannot solve this problem alone, and it is our intention to engage our business communities and residents in support of this effort. It is our hope that, with all of us working together, we can come to a solution that truly addresses our transportation needs.

Sincerely,

The Mayors and Chairs  
of Virginia's Urban Crescent

Attachment – Statement of Purpose

  
Nader Baroukh, Mayor, City of Falls Church

  
Linda T. Johnson, Mayor, City of Suffolk

  
Sharon Bulova, Chair, Fairfax County

  
Dwight C. Jones, Mayor, City of Richmond

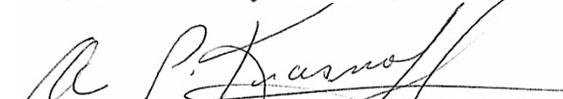
  
James H. Burrell, Chairman, New Kent County

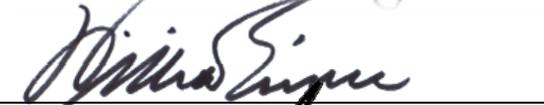
  
Frank Jones, Mayor, City of Manassas Park

  
Alan E. Casteen, Chairman, Isle of Wight County

  
Mary K. Jones, Chair, James City County

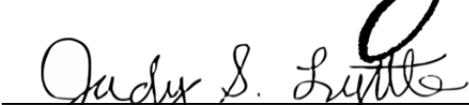
  
Ned S. Creasey, Chairman, Goochland County

  
Alan P. Krasnoff, Mayor, City of Chesapeake

  
William D. Euille, Mayor, City of Alexandria

  
Robert W. Lazaro, Mayor, Town of Puffcellville

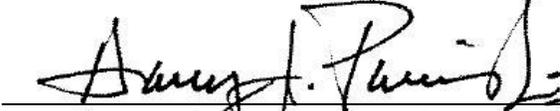
  
Gerald M. Foreman, Mayor, Town of Dumfries

  
Judy S. Lyttle, Chair, Surry County

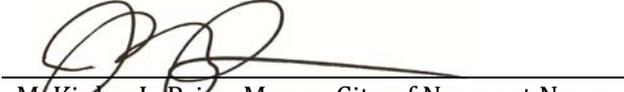
  
Paul D. Fraim, Mayor, City of Norfolk

  
Lisa C. Merkel, Mayor, Town of Herndon

  
Richard W. Glover, Chairman, Henrico County

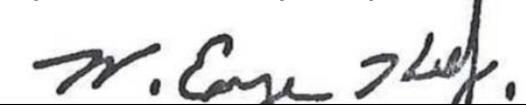
  
Harry J. Parrish, II, Mayor, City of Manassas

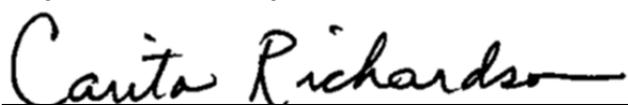
  
Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Mayor City of Fredericksburg

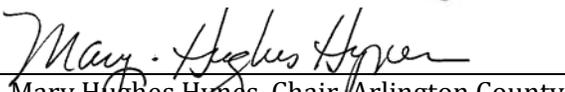
  
McKinley L. Price, Mayor, City of Newport News

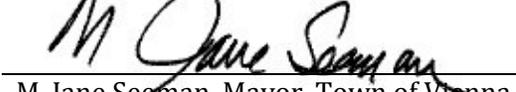
  
Clyde A. Haulman, Mayor, City of Williamsburg

  
Faye O. Prichard, Mayor, Town of Ashland

  
W. Eugene Hunt, Mayor, City of Poquoson

  
Carita J. Richardson, Mayor, Town of Windsor

  
Mary Hughes Hynes, Chair, Arlington County

  
M. Jane Seeman, Mayor, Town of Vienna



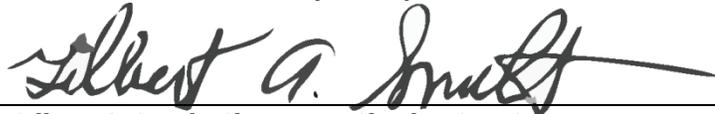
William D. Sessoms, Mayor, City of Virginia Beach



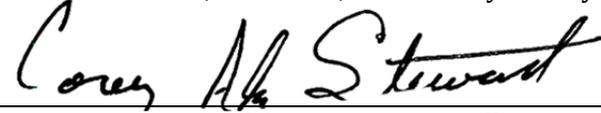
Thomas G. Shepperd, Chairman, York County



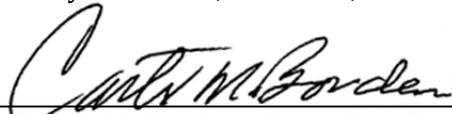
R. Scott Silverthorne, Mayor, City of Fairfax



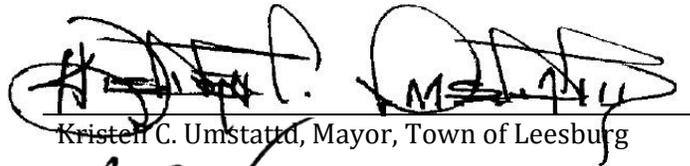
Gilbert A. Smith, Chairman, Charles City County



Corey A. Stewart, Chairman, Prince William County



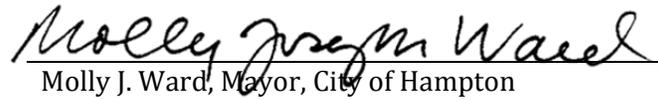
Carter M. Borden, Chairman, Gloucester County



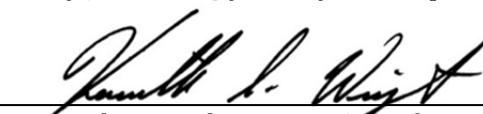
Kristen C. Umstadt, Mayor, Town of Leesburg



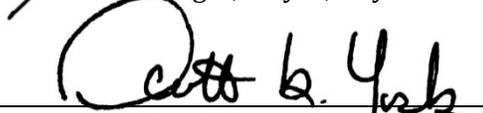
G. Ed Via, III, Chairman, Hanover County



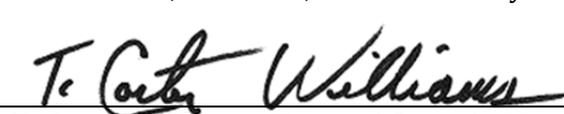
Molly J. Ward, Mayor, City of Hampton



Kenneth I. Wright, Mayor, City of Portsmouth



Scott K. York, Chairman, Loudoun County



T. Carter Williams, Town of Smithfield

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- A modern, efficient multimodal transportation system is essential to the Commonwealth, and is intrinsically tied to continued economic development, growth, job creation and the ability to compete in a global economy. Continued inaction, or a piecemeal approach, to the issue of transportation funding imposes an additional tax on our residents, families and businesses, through decreased productivity, diminished quality of life, higher fuel costs, higher vehicle maintenance costs and increased pollution and a lowered attraction to tourists and business leaders.
- Current state transportation revenues are vastly insufficient to maintain and build the multimodal infrastructure Virginia needs to remain an active and dynamic participant in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy. The gap identified between transportation needs and available revenues continues to widen dramatically each year.
- Transportation is fundamentally a state responsibility. As such, the Commonwealth must lead the efforts to provide more revenue for our transportation infrastructure.
- The Commonwealth of Virginia is facing a transportation funding crisis that must be addressed. Virginia needs real transportation solutions that provide significant increases in state transportation funding for all modes from new stable, reliable, permanent, and balanced source(s).
- Individual representatives from the Urban Crescent cannot solve this crisis alone. We, the mayors and chairs of the Urban Crescent, support the General Assembly and encourage our elected state leaders to take bold action to address this crisis.

**Distribution:**

**Fredericksburg Area General Assembly Delegation**

The Honorable Mark Cole, Delegate  
The Honorable John A. Cox, Delegate  
The Honorable Mark Dudenhefer, Delegate  
The Honorable Peter Farrell, Delegate  
The Honorable William J. Howell, Delegate  
The Honorable Ryan T. McDougale, Senator  
The Honorable Robert D. Orrock Sr., Delegate  
The Honorable Margaret B. Ransone, Delegate  
The Honorable Bryce Reeves, Senator  
The Honorable Richard H. Stuart, Senator  
The Honorable Linda Toddy-Puller, Senator

**Hampton Roads General Assembly Delegation**

The Honorable Kenneth C. Alexander, Delegate  
The Honorable Mamye E. BaCote, Delegate  
The Honorable Harry B. Blevins, Senator  
The Honorable John A. Cosgrove, Delegate  
The Honorable Gordon C. Helsel, Jr., Delegate  
The Honorable Keith Hodges, Delegate  
The Honorable Algie T. Howell, Jr., Delegate  
The Honorable Salvatore R. Iaquinto, Delegate  
The Honorable Matthew James, Delegate  
The Honorable Johnny S. Joannou, Delegate  
The Honorable Chris Jones, Delegate  
The Honorable Barry Knight, Delegate  
The Honorable Lynwood W. Lewis, Jr., Delegate  
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, Senator  
The Honorable L. Louise Lucas, Senator  
The Honorable Jeffrey L. McWaters, Senator  
The Honorable John C. Miller, Senator  
The Honorable Rick Morris, Delegate  
The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr., Senator  
The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, Senator  
The Honorable Brenda L. Pogge, Delegate  
The Honorable Harry R. Purkey, Delegate  
The Honorable Lionell Spruill, Sr., Delegate  
The Honorable Christopher Stolle, Delegate  
The Honorable Robert Tata, Delegate  
The Honorable Roslyn C. Tyler, Delegate  
The Honorable Ronald A. Villanueva, Delegate  
The Honorable Frank W. Wagner, Senator  
The Honorable Jeion A. Ward, Delegate  
The Honorable Mike Watson, Delegate  
The Honorable David E. Yancey, Delegate

**Northern Virginia General Assembly Delegation**

The Honorable David B. Albo, Delegate  
The Honorable Richard L. Anderson, Delegate  
The Honorable George L. Barker, Senator  
The Honorable Richard H. Black, Senator  
The Honorable Robert H. Brink, Delegate  
The Honorable David L. Bulova, Delegate  
The Honorable Charles J. Colgan, Senator  
The Honorable Barbara J. Comstock, Delegate  
The Honorable Mark Dudenhefer, Delegate  
The Honorable Adam P. Ebbin, Senator  
The Honorable David L. Englin, Delegate  
The Honorable Barbara A. Favola, Senator  
The Honorable Eileen Filler-Corn, Delegate  
The Honorable Thomas A. Greason, Delegate  
The Honorable Charniele L. Herring, Delegate  
The Honorable Mark R. Herring, Senator  
The Honorable Patrick A. Hope, Delegate  
The Honorable Janet D. Howell, Senator  
The Honorable Timothy D. Hugo, Delegate  
The Honorable Mark L. Keam, Delegate  
The Honorable Kaye Kory, Delegate  
The Honorable James M. LeMunyon, Delegate  
The Honorable L. Scott Lingamfelter, Delegate  
The Honorable Alfonso H. Lopez, Delegate  
The Honorable David W. Marsden, Senator  
The Honorable Robert G. Marshall, Delegate  
The Honorable Joe T. May, Delegate  
The Honorable Jackson H. Miller, Delegate  
The Honorable J. Randall Minchew, Delegate  
The Honorable Chap Peterson, Senator  
The Honorable Kenneth R. Plum, Delegate  
The Honorable David I. Ramadan, Delegate  
The Honorable Thomas Davis Rust, Delegate  
The Honorable Richard L. Saslaw, Senator  
The Honorable James M. Scott, Delegate  
The Honorable Mark D. Sickles, Delegate  
The Honorable Scott A. Surovell, Delegate  
The Honorable Luke E. Torian, Delegate  
The Honorable Jill Holtzman Vogel, Senator  
The Honorable Vivian E. Watts, Delegate

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The Honorable Betsy B. Carr, Delegate  
The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, Delegate  
The Honorable Rosalyn R. Dance, Delegate  
The Honorable Riley E. Ingram, Delegate  
The Honorable G.M. Manoli Loupassi, Delegate  
The Honorable L. Louise Lucas, Senator  
The Honorable Henry L. Marsh III, Senator  
The Honorable Stephen H. Martin, Senator  
The Honorable A. Donald McEachin, Senator  
The Honorable Delores L. McQuinn, Delegate  
The Honorable Rick Morris, Delegate  
The Honorable Joseph D. Morrissey, Delegate  
The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr., Senator  
The Honorable Roxann L. Robinson, Delegate  
The Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Jr., Senator  
The Honorable Roslyn C. Tyler, Delegate  
The Honorable R. Lee Ware Jr., Delegate  
The Honorable John C. Watkins, Senator

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The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, Delegate  
The Honorable Rosalyn R. Dance, Delegate  
The Honorable Peter Farrell, Delegate  
The Honorable Thomas A. Garrett, Jr., Senator  
The Honorable Riley E. Ingram, Delegate  
The Honorable G.M. Manoli Loupassi, Delegate  
The Honorable Henry L. Marsh III, Senator  
The Honorable Stephen H. Martin, Senator  
The Honorable James P. Massie, Delegate  
The Honorable Jennifer L. McClellan, Delegate  
The Honorable Ryan T. McDougle, Senator  
The Honorable A. Donald McEachin, Senator  
The Honorable Delores L. McQuinn, Delegate  
The Honorable Joseph D. Morrissey, Delegate  
The Honorable John M. O'Bannon III, Delegate  
The Honorable Christopher Peace, Delegate  
The Honorable Margaret B. Ransone, Delegate  
The Honorable Roxann L. Robinson, Delegate  
The Honorable Walter A. Stosch, Senator  
The Honorable R. Lee Ware, Jr., Delegate  
The Honorable John C. Watkins, Senator