

Response to Questions on the FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Chairman Connolly

Question: What was the original cost of the Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (PSTOC)? What caused the cost escalation to the current projected cost?

Response: On November 5, 2002, the voters approved a Public Safety Bond referendum which included an amount of \$29 million for the construction of a new "Public Safety Communications Center and Emergency Operations Center." The new PSTOC will provide a high security, state-of-the-art Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center to provide efficient and effective public safety and transportation services using coordinated technology and integrated data systems. The complex will be a multi-functional, multi-resource center with shared building and technology resources, as well as a coordinated regional strategy for providing vital public safety, emergency management, traffic management and other services. The bond referendum specified that this bond funding would help support planning, design, construction, and equipment associated with the upgraded facility. It was anticipated that additional costs associated with the project would be funded by a General Fund Transfer, alternative financing sources, and/or equipment lease financing. Due to the short time period between the spring 2002 adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan, including the approval of a proposed fall 2002 public safety referendum, and the presentation of the referendum details to the public for approval, there was not adequate time to develop a comprehensive and detailed needs assessment for the project. The detailed needs assessment, including building, mission-critical/redundancy systems, security, and IT requirements was finalized in 2004.

The original project estimate completed in March 2002 without an identified site or a needs assessment was \$60,000,000. This estimate was increased to \$80,000,000 in June 2003 after completing an initial needs assessment and to \$97,022,130 in January 2004 based on revised technology requirements contained in the more detailed needs assessment. Subsequent to the initial IT requirement estimates, an Information Technology Subcommittee of stakeholders was formed to review and validate the technology and system requirements given the critical nature of PSTOC operations. The IT committee's review and validation resulted in an increase in technology costs based on certain key items including:

- Higher than anticipated costs associated with ensuring the availability of an active 9-1-1 function while transitioning to the new center. This includes implementing new equipment in the PSTOC without reducing the existing Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) capabilities and hampering response services, and allows the old PSCC to remain with some technology to support a back-up operation.
- Increased costs associated with the site infrastructure requirements to support the new site, including ruggedized wire, redundancies, and wire closet configuration appropriately sized to the building design.

In addition, functions and personnel for the building including an increase in call taker positions, expanded Emergency Operations Center (EOC) functions which include County and regional partners, such as utility companies and transportation providers, also resulted in cost differences.

The Total Project Estimate of \$97,022,130 was revised again to the current amount of \$102,522,130 based on higher than anticipated land acquisition costs associated with the Camp 30 site, as well as costs associated with the relocation of two of VDOT's salt domes and a communications antenna. Site infrastructure grading, utility installation and demolition are scheduled to begin in September 2005.

The chart below outlines the history of appropriation to the project. The entire \$29 million in bond funds have been appropriated to the project. An amount of \$6 million was appropriated as part the *FY 2003 Third Quarter Review* and an amount of \$23 million was appropriated as part of the FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan. In addition, one-time General Fund monies which have materialized during quarterly reviews, have been used to supplement the requirements necessary to complete project. As part of the *FY 2003 Carryover Review*, a General Fund Transfer of \$9,984,908 was provided to support design engineering, utilities, fees and permits, as well as outside architectural fees associated with value engineering. As part of the *FY 2004 Third Quarter Review* additional General Fund monies of \$18,537,222 were provided to enable the project to proceed to construction. The proposed *FY 2005 Third Quarter Review* includes a General Fund Transfer of \$30 million, which together with the \$15 million proposed in the FY 2006 Advertised Budget, will complete the funding required for the project.

Appropriations:	
FY 2003 Third Quarter (Bonds)	\$6,000,000
FY 2003 Carryover (General Fund Transfer)	\$9,984,908
FY 2004 Third Quarter (General Fund Transfer)	\$18,537,222
FY 2005 Advertised Budget (Bonds)	\$23,000,000
FY 2005 Third Quarter (General Fund Transfer)	\$30,000,000
FY 2006 Advertised Budget (General Fund Transfer)	\$15,000,000
Total Project Estimate	\$102,522,130