



Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

January 15, 2007

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VACo to Oppose Hollow Land Use and Transportation Proposals

Local leaders understand the importance of managing commercial and residential growth. For that reason, VACo continues to petition the General Assembly for additional land use authority, including impact fees and a comprehensive adequate public facilities act (APF).

Impact fees complement existing conditional zoning authority. APF allows localities to deny a rezoning, site plan and subdivision plat until sufficient infrastructure is in place to service the proposed development while protecting vested property rights.

Local leaders also know the Commonwealth is mired in a statewide transportation funding crisis that is largely separate from local land use decisions. A significant and recurring state transportation funding initiative will help every region of the state - rural, suburban and urban.

These facts show the scope of the transportation funding crisis:

- Not a single county is receiving more state secondary road construction allocation assistance in 2007 than it did in 1997.

- Counties are experiencing a 25 percent average cut in their FY 2007 state secondary road construction allocations.

- VDOT will transfer more than \$400 million from its construction budget to plug its FY 2007 maintenance deficit.

(Transferring construction to maintenance reduces available funding to counties, cities and towns.)

- The average annual cost for VDOT to maintain new secondary roads grows by less than \$5 million a year (or less than 1.5 percent of the total \$400 million VDOT transfer to maintenance).
- The statewide transportation program is overly reliant on federal funds due to a lack of sufficient state funds. In 1990 the federal share of state construction was 40 percent, currently it is 74 percent.

- Most important, the devolution of the secondary system is nothing more than an unfunded mandate. The state would have to increase annual expenditures by more than \$400 million a year to fully fund county road maintenance costs.

(VDOT spent more than \$425 million in FY 2005 on secondary road maintenance. If counties were to receive VDOT's average lane-mile payment for road main-

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2007 General Assembly Session Convenes

The 2007 General Assembly convened Jan. 10 in Jamestown in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the 1607 English landing in James City County.

Stay tuned to VACo's legislative newsletter, *Capitol Contact*, for legislative information and action alerts. *Capitol Contact* is distributed on Mondays and Wednesdays during the session and on an as-needed basis. This publication is only available by email. Each issue is posted on VACo's Web site at www.vaco.org (click on publications).

In addition to new staff member Ted McCormack, the association has also enlisted assistance from three other specialists that will assist VACo during the 2007 session. Other full-time legislative staff mem-

bers include Jim Campbell, Phyllis Errico, Dean Lynch, Larry Land, Wendy Jenkins and Mike Edwards.

McCormack, VACo's director of governmental affairs, previously served as the associate director of the Commission on Local Government for 26 years. He held planning positions at the local, regional and state levels in Virginia, North Carolina and Florida. McCormack specializes in community development and planning and land use.

Randy Cook is a partner in the law firm of McCaul, Martin, Evans & Cook, P.C., in Hanover County. He entered private practice in 1985 after working for the General Assembly's Division of Legislative Services. He will cover courts of justice and housing issues.

Jeff Gore is with Hefty & Wiley, P.C., in Richmond. He previously served as director of local government affairs for VACo and worked for the General Assembly's Division of Legislative Services. Gore will cover the Commerce & Labor and Education committees in addition to assisting with land use and transportation policy.

Jim Staebler heads Communication Solutions, LLC. He previously served as the associate legislative director for the National Association of Counties (NACo) and as the director of intergovernmental relations for Hennepin County, Minn. Staebler is a certified mediator and has conducted mediation training for several Virginia counties. He will cover health and human resources and social service issues. ☞

Proposals

Continued from page 1

tenance in municipalities (\$9,000), the state would have to spend more than \$870 million a year to maintain the 97,000 secondary lane-miles in the Commonwealth's counties.)

VACo members must contact their legislators to oppose low land use and transportation proposals, and communicate the following arguments to legislators:

1. VACo supports the enactment of a significant state transportation funding package benefiting every region of the state.

The package must include new, recurring dedicated revenues supporting road construction, maintenance and transit.

2. VACo opposes cutting funding for other core services, including education, to support transportation.

3. Counties oppose any mandated transfer of secondary roads from the state to the counties. Any transfer is an abdication of state responsibilities that the Commonwealth cannot afford.

4. VACo opposes a one-size-fits-all mandate (for example, requiring counties to designate specific growth and impact fee areas).

Local governments require meaningful land use authority, including impact fees and an APF act.

5. Local governments support the governor's bill clarifying that counties can deny a rezoning due to a lack of adequate transportation infrastructure, but that bill is not a comprehensive APF act.

Please call, email and/or write legislators with this important message. VACo staff contacts: Jim Campbell, Ted McCormack and Mike Edwards ☞

Electric Utility Restructuring Returns as Hot Topic in 2007

Virginia's experiment with deregulating the electric utility industry appears to have come to an end before it was fully implemented. The method for returning to a more regulated system will be a major issue during this legislative session.

On Jan. 8, Dominion Virginia Power presented its proposal for how the state should proceed to the state Commission on Electric Utility Restructuring. Billed as a "hybrid regulatory model," Dominion's proposal calls for a statutorily guaranteed rate of return to the electric utility of roughly 12 percent (six percent plus the current average three-month yield of investment grade long-term utility bonds) and an end to capped rates beginning in 2009.

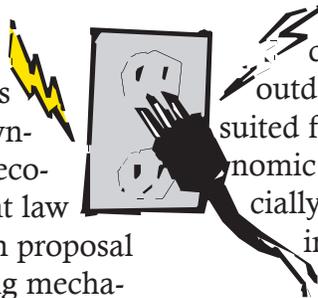
The utility could also seek "automatic rate adjustments"

when incurring certain increased expenditures resulting from, for example, construction of new power plants.

Instead of allowing for a possible SCC determination that rates should be adjusted downward based on certain economic factors as current law provides, the Dominion proposal calls for a profit splitting mechanism between the utility and customers if certain revenue thresholds are met. In addition, the proposal would prohibit customers (including localities) from purchasing electricity on the open market if their demand from the recent calendar year does not exceed five megawatts; and the energy demands of customers could no longer be combined, or aggregated, to meet that threshold.

These provisions drew criticism from several commission members. In response, a Dominion representative explained that the capped-rate system is outdated and not well suited for the current economic environment-- especially in light of the large infrastructure investments needed to meet Virginia's growing energy needs.

As it became apparent that the Dominion proposal needed more work, Commission Chairman Sen. Tommy Norment instructed all stakeholders to work out an acceptable solution before legislative crossover on Feb. 6. VACo will continue to monitor this issue, which directly affects counties' purchasing of electricity. Contact: Jeff Gore ☞



VACo Endorses Kaine's Real Estate Homestead Exemption

On Jan. 8, Gov. Kaine announced that he plans to propose a constitutional amendment to allow local governments to exempt as much as 20 percent of a home's value from real estate taxes.

The new real estate homestead exemption is a local option where county boards can adopt a local ordinance for the exemption. This is not a mandate on localities.

VACo's 2007 policy position states, "VACo supports a real estate homestead exemption, on a local option basis, granting local elected officials maximum authority to establish fiscal policies specific to their jurisdictions."

Constitutional amendments are approved by separate General Assemblies that have an intervening legislature election. The voters of Virginia consider the pro-

posal after the second legislative blessing. November of 2008 is the earliest that voters could act on the proposal. The governor's proposal also requires the enactment of a separate law establishing the statutory framework. Del. Robert Brink and Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple will carry the identical resolutions for the governor. ☞

Legislative Day Set for Feb. 1



For the 16th year, VACo and the Virginia Municipal League are joining forces to co-sponsor Legislative day on Feb. 1 at the Richmond Marriott (500 E. Broad St.). VACo and VML staff members will report on legislation affecting local governments, then local officials are encouraged to go to the state Capitol to participate in committee meetings and lobby state legislators. In the evening, local officials are strongly encouraged to invite their state legislators to dinner.

Tentative Agenda

9 a.m.	VACo Board of Directors meeting
9:30 a.m.	VML Board of Directors meeting
11 a.m.	Registration
Noon	VACo and VML Staff legislative briefings (box lunch provided)
Afternoon	Visits to state Capitol
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Cash bar reception for attending local officials
Evening	Take your legislators to dinner

In addition to Legislative Day, the County Board Chairpersons' Institute will take place Feb. 1-3. The Institute offers a professional learning experience that is carefully tailored to the needs of county board chairs. Topics include structure and function of county government, powers and responsibilities of the board chair, chair work relationships, communication and meeting management skills.

Registration forms for both of these events are available at www.vaco.org, click on "meetings," or call VACo at (804) 788-6652. ☞

Supervisor Certification Class Set for Feb. 2-3

The next Supervisor Certification Class, *Leadership for Effective Governance in the 21st Century*, will take place Feb. 2-3 at the Richmond Marriott with a follow-up course scheduled for March 31.

The Certified County Supervisor educational program helps elected officials become more effective civic leaders. Through a series of courses, supervisors learn how to implement a framework for successful leadership. Join the program now to become part of an elite group of certified supervisors.

Registration forms for this event are available at www.vaco.org, click on "meetings," or call VACo at (804) 788-6652. ☞

Grants Awarded to Localities Affected by BRAC

Nine grants totaling \$12.5 million have been awarded to support localities impacted by the federal 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decisions (BRAC). The grant funding was appropriated by the 2006 General Assembly and will be administered by the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority (VNDIA). Prince George County, along with Fairfax County, received grants totalling \$2.5 million.

The grants will support a variety of local initiatives that address BRAC actions in Virginia. Local programs being funded will address encroachment at or near military installations, support transportation projects aimed at easing traffic congestion around base entrances, establish BRAC transition centers to address worker and business displacement, fund historic preservation efforts, and contribute to the construction of a new elementary school. A full list of awards is available at www.governor.virginia.gov.

The application deadline for the next scheduled round of funding for the Military Strategic Response Fund is planned for April 30. For complete information regarding the grant application process, please visit the VNDIA Web site at www.vndia.org or contact David Dickson at (804) 545-5715 or ddickson@yesvirginia.org. ☞



Mark Your Calendar...

2007 VACo Events

VACo/VML Legislative Day

Feb. 1, Richmond Marriott

VACo Board of Directors Meeting

Feb. 1, Richmond Marriott

Chairpersons' Institute

Feb. 1-3, Richmond Marriott

Supervisor Certification Course

Feb. 2-3, Richmond Marriott
Leadership for Effective
Governance in the 21st Century

VACo Regional Meetings

March 13- May 9
VACo staff will take part in
regional meetings around the
state.

VACo Board of Directors Meeting

April 28, location TBA

Supervisor Certification Course

April 29-30, location TBA
*Inventing Your County's Future:
The Role of Community Planning*

VACo Resolutions Committee Meeting

May 24, location TBA

NACo's Annual Conference

July 13-17, Greater Richmond
Convention Center
www.naco2007.org

VACo Summer Meetings

Aug. 10-12, location TBA

VACo Resolutions Committee Meeting

Sept. 6, Richmond

Supervisor Certification Course

Sept. 7-8, Richmond
*Funding Public Services in the 21st
Century: The Role of Budgeting*

VACo's 73rd Annual Conference

Nov. 11-13, The Homestead

**General Assembly
Calendar**

Jan. 19- Deadline to file bills;
VRS impact statements due

Jan. 23- Cross over day;
Amendments to the Budget Bill
available by noon

Feb. 8- Each house to complete
work on the Budget Bill

Feb. 14- Last day for each house
to complete work on the Budget
Bill and revenue bills of the other
house; conferees appointed

Feb. 19- Last day for committee
action

Feb. 20- First conference on the
Budget Bill to complete work

Feb. 24- Budget Bill conference
report available by noon

Feb. 24- Sine Die

Local Government Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Web Cast)

Jan. 25, 3 - 4:30 p.m.
National Association of Local
Government Environmental
Professionals
To register, visit <http://www.nalgep.org/Registration/Registration1.cfm>. The registration fee is \$30 for nonmembers.

Pandemic Influenza Planning: Local Government Assistance

International City/County
Management Association
Webcast
Jan. 25, 2 -3:30 p.m.
The per-site participation fee is
\$95 and registration is now open
at <http://lgean.org/html/training>.

America and the World: Sustaining Democracy in the Global Age

Jan. 25-27, Longwood
University and Hampden-
Sydney College
Understanding the challenges
facing global democracy in the
21st century is vital, especially
since America's security
depends on freedom surviving
in other lands. Registration
fees: \$76 (includes meals), \$38
(no meals). <http://www.longwood.edu/democracy/>

NACo Legislative Conference

March 3-7, Hilton Washington
& Towers, Washington, D.C.
Earlybird registration deadline
ends Jan. 19. www.naco.org ☞

ADA Best Practice Tool Kit Available

On Dec. 5, the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice issued the first installment of a new technical assistance document. The document is designed to assist state and local officials to improve compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in their programs, services, activities and facilities. The new technical assistance document, "The ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments," will be released in several installments over the next ten months.

The Tool Kit is designed to teach state and local government officials how to identify and fix problems that prevent people with disabilities from gaining equal access to state and local government programs, services and activities. It will also teach state and local officials how to conduct accessibility surveys of their buildings and facilities to identify and remove architectural barriers to access.

While state and local governments are not required to use the ADA Best Practices Tool Kit, the Department encourages its use as one effective means of complying with the requirements of Title II of the ADA. Visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/pcatoolkit/toolkitmain.htm> to access the toolkit. ☼

Apply for a Wetland Restoration Grant

The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program project partners are currently accepting applications for the 2007 Five Star Restoration Challenge Grants. The Five Star Program provides modest financial assistance on a competitive basis to support community-based wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects.

In 2006, 39 out of 126 applicants from across the country received grants averaging \$13,000. The deadline for new grant applications is March 9.

For more information about the Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program, how to apply, and examples of past Five Star projects, visit www.naco.org/techassistance under water quality, or contact Erik Johnston at (202) 942-4246 or ejohnston@naco.org. ☼

Advertise to a National Audience

Since county officials and employees from all over the nation are regular visitors to www.naco.org, *Jobs Online* can give your county the opportunity to reach a broader audience than your local paper or county Web site. For more information or to post a job, contact NACo's Jobs Online representative, Allison Mall, at (202) 942-4256 or amall@naco.org. Or, go to www.naco.org/jobsonline and fill out the online form. Ads will be posted within 24 hours. ☼

Employment Opportunities

Employment ads have been edited due to space considerations. To view the full versions, visit www.vaco.org.

Assistant Planner/GIS Coordinator/Mathews County
Salary: \$32,000(+). A completed County of Mathews application, including salary history, along with a cover letter and resume may be submitted to the Department of Planning & Zoning, P.O. Box 839, Mathews, VA, 23109. A complete job description and application may be obtained at www.co.mathews.va.us or by contacting Planning & Zoning at (804) 725-4034. Position open until filled.

Benefits Coordinator/Montgomery County
Salary begins at \$30,909/yr. County application required. Deadline: Friday, Jan. 26. For more information about this position or to request an application or accommodation for disabilities, contact Human Resources at (540) 394-2007 (TDD 540-382-5700) County Job Line (540-394-2010) or visit www.montva.com

City Manager/City of Hopewell
Submit letter of application, detailed resume with salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice President or Dale Johnson-Raney, Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 8790

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Employment

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Park Central Drive, Suite B, Richmond, VA 23227; Fax 804-726-9750 or e-mail Richmond@springsted.com by Feb. 5. For more information and a community and position profile visit www.springsted.com.

Communications Officer/ Henrico County

Accepting applications from Feb. 2 - March 4. Starting salary \$30,437.97 annually. applications accepted online at www.henricojobs.com. www.henricopolice.org

Director of Airport/Industrial Park/Accomack County

Salary range: \$51,037 to \$74,004. Interested candidates should contact the Accomack County Administrator's Office, 23296 Courthouse Avenue, PO Box 388, Accomac, VA 23301, (757) 787-5700 for an application packet. This position is open until filled.

Director of Development/City of Hopewell

Position No. 11062, Salary Range: \$65,771 - \$98,655 Hiring Range: \$65,771 - \$71,972 Telephone: (804) 541-2211 Access a City Application at www.ci.hopewell.va.us. Open until filled.

Director of Finance/Orange County

Submit letter of application, detailed resume, salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Senior Vice

President or Dale Johnson-Raney, Vice President, Springsted Incorporated, 8790 Park Central Dr., Suite B, Richmond, VA 23227; Fax (804) 726-9752 or Email Richmond@springsted.com by Jan. 31. For further information visit www.springsted.com.

Director of Information Technology/Fluvanna County

Salary DOQ. Submit your resume and a state application with a cover letter stating your salary expectations to Barbara Wall-Magee, Fluvanna County Human Resources, PO Box 540, Palmyra, VA 22963. Open until filled.

Executive Director Position/ Young Professionals of Central Virginia

Seeking energetic self-starter for cutting edge new Executive Director position for the Young Professionals of Central VA. Send resumes to YPCV Search, PO Box 212, Lynchburg, VA 24505

GIS Administrator/Page County

Interested candidates should submit an application to Director of Human Resources, 117 South Court Street, Luray, VA 22835. Visit our website at www.page-county.virginia.gov or call (540) 743-4142. The deadline for accepting applications is Jan. 26.

Local Government Policy Manager/ DHCD

Hiring Range: \$65,000 - \$85,000 Complete a state application through the online employment system at http://jobs.virginia.gov/ by Jan. 26 at 5 p.m.

Payroll Coordinator/Arlington County

Salary: \$45,905-\$75,899 Submit required Internet application at www.arlingtonva.us/ pers as soon as possible in order to assure consideration. Call (703) 228-3500 or email pers@arlingtonva.us.

Planning Director/ Page County

Please contact the Page County Human Resources Director at (540) 743-4142 for an application or visit http://www.page-county.virginia.gov. Deadline Jan. 26.

Public Information Director/ Montgomery County

Salary begins at \$45,304/yr. County application required Deadline: Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. For more information contact Human Resources at (540) 394-2007 (TDD 540-382-5700), County Job Line (540-394-2010) or visit www.montva.com.

Public Utilities Engineering Manager/Hanover County

\$60,402 - \$102,683 + benefits. For more information visit www.hanovercountyjobs.com or call (804) 365-6489 (TDD# 365-6140).

Zoning/Subdivision Administrator/Shenandoah County

Salary range starts at \$44,431. (540) 459-6165 www.co.shenandoah.va.us Position is open until filled. ☹

1001 E. Broad St., Suite LL 20
Richmond, VA 23219



Executive Committee

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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

1001 E. Broad St.
Suite LL 20
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 788-6652
Fax: (804) 788-0083
www.vaco.org

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Editor: Wendy Jenkins
(804) 343-2502