



# Connections

The Newsletter of the Virginia Association of Counties

February 1, 2007

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## Transportation Continues as Top Issue in 2007 GA Session

Speaker of the House William Howell, Sen. Thomas Norment and other senior Republican legislators have introduced a joint transportation funding and land use plan. HB 3202 (Howell) and SB 1417 (Norment) include statewide funding initiatives, specific land use proposals and separate funding initiatives for Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia.

At the time of publication, details of this transportation package were continuously changing. However, the proposed plan violates two of VACo's most important legislative positions; opposition to the use of state general funds for transportation and the transfer of transportation responsibility from the state to local governments. However, the Senate bill was amended on Jan. 31 to repeal the road devolution proposal.

Call your legislators with the following messages:

1. *Protect the General Fund.*  
a. The plan takes more than \$900 million each biennium from the state general fund and dedicates it to transportation.



b. The state's transportation infrastructure must be funded with dedicated and recurring funding.

2. *Forcing subdivision maintenance responsibility on counties will clearly lead to increases in real estate taxes.*

3. *Protect existing local government land use authority. (The House bill still contains a road devolution provision.)*

Stay tuned to *Capitol Contact* for the latest legislative updates. To sign up to receive *Capitol Contact*, please contact VACo staff member Wendy Jenkins at [wjenkins@vaco.org](mailto:wjenkins@vaco.org) or (804) 343-2502. *Capitol Contact* is a member publication that is only available by email. ☞

## Update on Electric Utility Restructuring Bills

On Feb. 1, the House Commerce and Labor Committee will consider electric utility re-regulation bills. The Senate Commerce and Labor Committee will take up this issue on Feb. 5.

In the Jan. 11 issue of *Capitol Contact*, VACo described the re-regulation "hybrid" proposal that Dominion Virginia Power presented to Virginia's electric utility restructuring commission earlier this month. During the second week of the legislative session, Dominion's proposal officially appeared in the form of SB 1416 (Norment). In the past two weeks, a stakeholder work group facilitated by Chief Deputy Attorney General Bill Mims has developed changes to the Dominion proposal. The restructuring commission endorsed the group's "discussion draft" on Jan. 29 as a place to begin the official legislative consideration of re-regulation.

After not being afforded a

seat at the work group table, VACo and VML jointly submitted comments to the Attorney General's office. Preserving the ability of localities to "pool together" or "aggregate" demand in order to negotiate rates for governmental facilities appears to have been addressed with new language proposed by the work group, at least with regard to contracting with the incumbent utility. Limitations on shopping for electricity on the open market remain in the discussion draft, although new language does allow for customers to combine their demand in order to reach a five megawatt annual threshold and shop on the open market in certain limited circumstances as approved by the State Corporation Commission.

Senator Norment's bill will be the chief vehicle for re-regulation in the Senate, while HB 3068 (Hogan) will be the House bill carrying the restructuring commission's endorsement. Both

patrons indicated that their bills will be amended to reflect most of the discussion draft's provisions, with the addition of some pieces of Del. Hogan's introduced bill.

The restructuring commission voted to table further discussion of HB 3050 (Morgan), which essentially calls for a return to a regulated cost-of-service system in which the SCC would retain significant control to set rates. However, the House Commerce and Labor Committee will still consider the bill during its Feb. 1 meeting. Consumer and environmental advocates, manufacturers, small independent power providers, and other stakeholder groups are urging the General Assembly to delay any sweeping action on re-regulation for at least another year to allow more time to consider this important and complex issue. VACo Legislative Staff Contact: Jeff Gore, [jsgore@gmail.com](mailto:jsgore@gmail.com) or (804) 343-2510. ☞

## VACo Focus Group Data Available

Three focus groups concentrating on VACo's communication efforts were conducted during the 2006 Annual Conference. VACo would like to thank Nancy Gansneder of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service and her assistant, Wacey Turner, an intern at the center, for facilitating the focus groups.

Seventeen supervisors attended two focus groups for supervisors. Ten people attended a focus group for administrators and legislative liaisons. Those invited to participate in the focus groups were deliberately chosen to represent a mix of Virginia's rural, suburban and urban counties. The participants filled out a survey and discussed VACo's communication efforts in depth. The full focus group and survey results are available at [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org). You can request a print copy by calling (804) 788-6652. ☞

## Multimodal Transportation Planning and Land Use Grants Available

The Commonwealth's Multimodal Transportation Planning Office is offering \$3.24 million in grants for multimodal planning assistance and training for regional planning bodies, local governments and public transportation agencies.

Potential studies include development of land use and transportation plans, collection of land use data, development of model local ordinances, preparation of regional corridor plans, analysis of freight movement, planning for populations with limited mobility, and train-

ing in multimodal planning and land use.

The grants will be provided through two programs administered by the Commonwealth's Multimodal Transportation Planning Office. With the Local and Regional Corridor Planning Grant Program, grants will be awarded to applicants to use their own staff or consultants. With the Multimodal and Land Use Plan Development Assistance Program, grants will be awarded for use of consultants hired by the Multimodal Office. A 10 percent in-kind services match is

required for both programs. The application and selection criteria are the same for both programs. No maximum award amount is identified.

Applicants are requested to submit a grant letter of intent outlining the proposed project by March 1. Grant recipients will be announced May 1, 2007. The application and additional information is available online at [www.vtrans.org](http://www.vtrans.org) or by contacting Herbert Pegram at (804) 786-2865 or [Herbert.Pegram@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:Herbert.Pegram@vdot.virginia.gov). ☞

## Buy Green and Stay in the Black with US Communities

Public agencies have led the way when it comes to environmentally sensitive purchasing. This has often been to the detriment of the bottom line due to the premiums charged for these products. However, in recent years, options for environmentally sensitive acquisitions have increased and prices have fallen. It is now possible to buy green while remaining in the budgetary black ink. By aggregating spending volumes nationwide, public agencies have been able to help increase the product lines and decrease pricing through cooperative purchasing.

The VACo-sponsored U.S. Communities program provides significant product offerings for green purchasing. Whether it's

office supplies, paper or toner, lighting and electrical, Energy Star rated appliances and computers, Green Seal certified janitorial supplies, recyclable carpet and flooring, ergonomically correct office and school furniture, environmentally sound playground and recreational equipment, hypoallergenic safety equipment, or environmentally sensitive roofing products and related services, the U.S. Communities team of suppliers provides it all at deep discounts.

Since its inception, U.S. Communities has saved local and state agencies more than \$500 million cumulatively, and more than \$100 million in 2005 alone. With 15 commodities contracts now available to cities, counties, schools, special districts, state

agencies and non-profit organizations, U.S. Communities continues to be the premier strategic sourcing solution for government. The program is free to public agencies, has no minimum spending requirements and provides a significant procurement tool in the toolbox of local government.

U.S. Communities suppliers often provide separate environmentally friendly product catalogues or highlight their green product offerings within existing catalogues. Public agencies can gain access to these products by visiting [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org), registering to participate, and requesting information from their preferred suppliers. ☞



## Mark Your Calendar...

### Social Equity: Putting Solutions into Practice

Feb. 15-17

Richmond Omni Hotel

For more information visit

<http://www.has.vcu.edu/gov/selc/index.html>

The Sixth Annual Social Equity Leadership Conference (SEL) is focused on offering solutions to social inequities in governance.

Contacts:

- Susan Gooden, (804) 828-7078 or [stgooden@vcu.edu](mailto:stgooden@vcu.edu)
- Blue Wooldridge, (804) 828-8037 or [bwooldri@vcu.edu](mailto:bwooldri@vcu.edu)

### NACo Legislative Conference

March 3-7, Hilton Washington & Towers, Washington, D.C.

[www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

### The 2007 City and County Technology Summit

March 12-14, 2007

Arlington, Va.

Hosted by The Performance

Institute, the 2007 City & County Technology Summit is the most comprehensive event offered to educate and train local professionals to improve performance in IT.

VACo members will receive 20 percent off tuition. Please mention code T560-VAC when registering.

Contact: Melvin Hall

[Hall@PerformanceWeb.org](mailto:Hall@PerformanceWeb.org)

(703) 894-0481

<http://www.cityandcounty.org/>

### VACo Regional Meetings

March 13- April 20, VACo staff will take part in regional meetings around the state. Dates will be announced soon.

### Second Wednesday Seminars 2007

A series of professional development classes

February-June, University of Virginia's Richmond Center

We all know them: the workday demons that cause knots in your stomach—difficulties due to cultural or generational differences among staff; unmotivated employees; the pressure of new responsibilities. This series is designed to provide you with strategies and techniques to handle a variety of situations with assurance and insight.

#### 2007 Class Schedule

Feb. 14, half-day: Behavioral-Based Interviewing

March 14: Customer Service in the Public Sector

April 11: Motivating & Retaining Employees

May 9: Diversity & the Generation Gap at Work

June 13: Succeeding as a First-Time Supervisor

The series is sponsored by UVA's Virginia Institute of Government. Registration per class: \$75-\$100 (includes lunch for full day seminars). Group discounts. Contact: Jessica Smith at (804) 371-0202, email [jessicasmith@virginia.edu](mailto:jessicasmith@virginia.edu), or visit [www.VaInstituteofGovernment.org](http://www.VaInstituteofGovernment.org).

### Local Government Academy at Germanna Community College Winter/Spring 2007

The Academy offers 11 classes designed for local government professionals on a variety of topics including effective leadership, strategic planning, land use law, behavioral interviewing, workforce diversity, effective presentation techniques, workplace survival skills, improving your memory, and Spanish for City and County Government.

Henrico County and Chesterfield County trainers teach several of the classes. Classes will be held February through May on the Fredericksburg campus. In partnership with the Virginia Institute of Government.

Registration fees range from \$69 - \$266. Call (540) 891-3012 or visit <http://www.germannna.edu/workforce/>.

### VACo Board of Directors Meeting

April 28, location TBA

### VACo Supervisor Certification Course

April 29-30, location TBA

A closing session will follow on June 29.

*Topic:* Inventing Your County's Future: The Role of Community Planning ☼

Photo by Wendy Jenkins



Several officials from Southwest Virginia visited the VACo office and General Assembly on Jan. 18. Sen. William Wampler, Jr., and Del. Bud Phillips also stopped by to speak to the delegation and answer questions. Pictured left to right: Robert Robbins (Wise County Supervisor), Shannon Scott (Wise Assistant County Administrator), Leland Branham (Wise County Supervisor) and Robert Adkins (Wise County Supervisor). ☿

## Contract Offers Telecom and Energy Savings

Many local governments are facing escalating telecom and energy costs at a time when revenue sources are stagnant. Government leaders consider these costs part of the budget's bottom line and that higher costs are inevitable. However, some local governments have learned that there may be hidden refunds and cost savings available.

A nationally bid contract completed and awarded by Dallas County, TX, Cost Control Associates (CCA) makes it possible for counties to receive the help they need to receive refunds and cost savings from their telecom and energy providers. NACo Financial Services is proud to announce a partnership with CCA to offer these services to all NACo members and affiliates at a discount from their normal fee structure.

Counties that retain the services of CCA pay nothing if their review is unsuccessful. Their record of finding refunds or cost savings in the local government market is in excess of 90 percent. CCA offers its cost savings program to any local government and has experience in reviewing bills with nearly all major telecom and utility providers.

To learn more about the telecom and energy analysis program, contact Jeff Schreck at Cost Control Associates at (518) 798-4437 or [jeff.schreck@costcontrolassociates.com](mailto:jeff.schreck@costcontrolassociates.com) . ☿

## Congratulations!

**Henrico County** employee B.R. Carson, a member of the county staff for more than 30 years, won the seventh annual Excellence in Public Service Award on Jan. 23

Quality Culvert Inc., a Florida-based manufacturer of plastic and concrete pipe, will invest \$6.8 million to build a new 58,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in the **Greensville County Industrial Park**. The project will create 50 new jobs.

**Loudoun County** has received a \$160,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia to expand community services for children in, or at risk of, residential care.

Terremark Worldwide, Inc., a leading operator of integrated Internet exchanges and a global provider of managed Information Technology (IT) infrastructure solutions for government and private sectors, expects to invest approximately \$270 million over the next five to seven years to open a data center campus on a 30-acre site in **Culpeper County**. The project is expected to create 250 new jobs.

**Henrico County** Manager Virgil Hazelett has appointed Karen Mier director of the Division of Recreation and Parks, effective Jan. 24. Mier, who most recently served as the division's assistant director, succeeds former director Wes Malcomb, who retired Jan. 9. ☿

## Employment Opportunities

Employment ads have been edited due to space considerations. To view the full versions, visit [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org).

### Assistant Chief Financial Officer/ City of Asheville

Salary range \$52,275 - \$69,265  
Submit an application and resume to the City of Asheville, Human Resources Department, P. O. Box 7148, Asheville, NC 28802-7148, fax (828) 259-5479 or e-mail [apply@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:apply@ashevillenc.gov). Applications are available at [www.ashevillenc.gov](http://www.ashevillenc.gov). Open until filled.

### Assistant Planner/GIS Coordinator/Mathews County

Salary: \$32,000(+) DOE  
A complete job description and application may be obtained at [www.co.mathews.va.us](http://www.co.mathews.va.us) or by contacting Planning & Zoning at (804) 725-4034. Position open until filled.

### Budget Analyst II/Fairfax County

\$48,189 Job # 07-9074  
It is anticipated that this position will be filled with an entry level budget analyst. Apply online at [www.fairfax-county.gov/jobs](http://www.fairfax-county.gov/jobs). TTY (703) 222-7314.

### Building Official/Montgomery County

County application required. Position open until filled. For more information about this position contact Human

Resources at (540) 394-2007 (TDD 540-382-5700); County Job Line, (540)-394-2010; or visit [www.montva.com](http://www.montva.com)

### Chief Internal Auditor/Stafford County

Salary Range \$91,102 - \$141,208  
Deadline March 23. Qualified applicants should apply online at [www.co.stafford.va.us](http://www.co.stafford.va.us).

### 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 Park Central Drive, Suite B, Richmond, VA 23227; Fax (804) 726-9750 or email [Richmond@springsted.com](mailto:Richmond@springsted.com) by Feb. 5. [www.springsted.com](http://www.springsted.com).

### Commercial/Industrial Appraiser/City of Charlottesville

Hiring Salary \$39,104 - \$60,000  
Apply by 5 p.m., Feb. 16. For more information visit [www.charlottesville.org](http://www.charlottesville.org) or call (434) 970-3490.

### Communications Officer/Henrico County

Accepting applications from Feb. 2 - March 4. Starting salary \$30,437.97 annually. [www.henricopolice.org](http://www.henricopolice.org), applications accepted online at [www.henricojobs.com](http://www.henricojobs.com)

### Community Development Associate Director/DHCD

(Program Administration Manager III) position #00050

Hiring range: \$60,000 - \$75,000  
For details visit [www.dhcd.virginia.gov](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov). Complete a state application through the online employment system at <http://jobs.virginia.gov/> by Feb. 8 at 5 pm. For additional information contact Human Resources at (804) 371-7000.

### County Attorney/Prince Edward County

Deadline March 9. Submit letter/resume to: County of Prince Edward, ATTN: Sarah Elam Puckett, Acting County Administrator, P.O. Box 382, Farmville, VA 23901. (434) 392-8837, [spuckett@co.prince-edward.va.us](mailto:spuckett@co.prince-edward.va.us).

### 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 Finance/King George County

Submit letter of application, detailed resume, salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Sr. VP, Springsted Incorporated, 8790 Park Central Dr., Suite B, Richmond, VA 23227; Fax (804) 726-9752 or email [richmond@springsted.com](mailto:richmond@springsted.com) by Feb.15. [www.springsted.com](http://www.springsted.com).

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**Employment**

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**Director of Information Technology/Fluvanna County**

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. This position will remain open until filled.

**Director of Information Technology/Orange County**

Submit letter of application, detailed resume, salary history and work related references to: John A. Anzivino, Sr. VP, Springsted Incorporated, 8790 Park Central Dr., Suite B, Richmond, VA 23227; Fax 804-726-9752 or email Richmond@springsted.com by Feb. 17. For further information visit www.springsted.com.

**Director, Office of Facilities Development/Albemarle County**

\$66,144-\$105,829/Annually. Deadline Feb. 16. Apply online at www.albemarle.org Send cover letter & resume to Gilliam@albemarle.org. (434) 296-5827.

**Director of Tourism/Bedford County, City**

Starting salary range is \$50,312 - \$55,343. Applications and job descriptions are available at www.co.bedford.va.us, (540) 586-7601. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

**Engineer I/City of Richmond**

Position #35M00000473  
Salary Range: \$42,072 - \$69,106  
The Department of Public Utilities - Technical Services Division - is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Engineer I to support the Water Utility Engineering Group.

**Engineer II/City of Richmond**

Position # 35M00000631  
The Department of Public Utilities - Wastewater Division is seeking a highly qualified individual for the position of Engineer II. Salary Range: \$49,183 - \$80,787. Open until filled.

**Engineer III/City of Richmond**

Position #35M00000623  
The Department of Public Utilities is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Engineer III (Wastewater Utility).  
Salary Range: \$53,923-\$88,571.  
Position is open until filled.

**Engineer III/City of Richmond**

Position #35M00000621  
The Department of Public Utilities - Technical Services Division - is seeking a highly qualified individual for the position of Engineer III - Gas Design (Mechanical, Civil or Electrical Engineer preferred).  
Salary Range: \$53,923 - \$88,571.  
Position is open until filled.

**Engineer III/City of Richmond**

Position #35M00000767  
Water Maintenance Engineer is responsible for managing Water Maintenance, Paving and External Contracts.  
Salary Range: \$53,923-\$88,571.  
Submit a City of Richmond com-

pleted application at the following website: <http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/departments/hr/hrjobs.aspx>. For more information call (804) 646-5900. Open until filled.

**Payroll Coordinator/Arlington County**

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

**Public Utilities Engineering Manager/Hanover County**

\$60,402 - \$102,683 + benefits.  
For more info visit [www.hanovercountyjobs.com](http://www.hanovercountyjobs.com) or call (804) 365-6489 (TDD# 365-6140).

**Technology and Assessment Data Coordinator/City of Charlottesville**

Hiring Salary Range \$39,104-\$54,000/yr. Apply by 5 p.m., Feb. 16. For more information, visit our website [www.charlottesville.org](http://www.charlottesville.org) or call (434) 970-3490.

**Water Operator/Louisa County**

Contact the Authority office for details. Louisa County Water Authority, P. O. Box 9, Louisa, Virginia 23093. (540) 967-1122.

**Zoning/Subdivision Administrator/Shenandoah County**

Salary range starts at \$44,431. For more info call (540) 459-6165 or visit [www.co.shenandoah.va.us](http://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](http://www.vaco.org)

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(804) 343-2502