

1 **Virginia Association of Counties:**
2 **Preliminary 2010 Legislative Program**

3 *As initially reviewed by the Resolutions Committee on Sept. 11, 2009.*
4

5 **Background**
6

7 The membership will adopt the 2010 Legislative Program at the annual
8 conference on Nov. 10 in Bath County. Prior to the Nov. 10 action, the eight
9 steering committees will adopt their sections and submit them to the Resolutions
10 Committee for approval. The Resolutions Committee then approves the final
11 draft of the program and sends it to the membership for consideration.
12

- 13 • Sunday, Nov. 8: Steering Committees meet to adopt their sections
 - 14 • Monday, Nov. 9: Resolutions Committee meets to adopt the program
 - 15 • Tuesday, Nov. 10: Membership meets to adopt the program
- 16

17 The 2010 process was initiated in the spring when the steering committees met
18 Aug. 14 in Richmond, and the Resolutions Committee met on May 8 in
19 Richmond and Sep. 11 via conference call.
20

21 *PR denotes a preliminary priority statement. Priority statements will be
22 ratified during the annual conference.

23	<u>Table of Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
24		
25		
26	Administration of Government	2
27	Community Development and Planning	4
28	Education	6
29	Environment & Agriculture	7
30	Finance	9
31	Health and Human Services	12
32	Telecommunications & Utilities	13
33	Transportation	15
34		

35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73

Administration of Government

Aid to Localities

VACo requests the Commonwealth to use the most current population statistics available for the purposes of determining state aid to those localities that experience population growth. While the results of the 2010 Census will be available in the near future, many population shifts occur in the ten-year period between the decennial enumerations. During that period, population statistics from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service or the American Community Survey are available for use by the Commonwealth. Those localities that have remained stable or have lost population should be held harmless and funded based on the last U.S. Census results. ***PR**

Annexation Moratorium

VACo supports full funding of the Commonwealth’s HB 599 commitments. VACo also supports the continuation of the current moratorium on city annexations regardless of whether those commitments have been met. The moratorium has promoted more intergovernmental cooperation between cities and counties; has allowed counties to plan for future growth and economic development within their borders; and has allowed counties to be able to protect their tax base in order to provide needed services to citizens.

Dillon Rule

VACo supports a relaxation of the Dillon Rule by giving counties greater local autonomy, particularly concerning land use regulation and local revenue measures.

Elected Officials

VACo seeks to work with the General Assembly in a bipartisan effort to address the issues that arise when an elected official faces prosecution for crimes of moral turpitude. This includes a process for appointing a temporary replacement to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the office until the legal process is complete.

Eminent Domain

VACo supports legislation preserving the necessary powers of local government and governmental agencies to avoid and abate blighted conditions through

74 redevelopment, and preserving condemnation authority provided for public
75 purposes such as schools, parks, roads and other purposes as set out in the code.
76

77 **Freedom of Information Act Electronic Meetings**

78 VACo supports amendments to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that
79 allow regional authorities, boards, bureaus, districts, political subdivisions,
80 commissions or agencies of local government to conduct electronic meetings
81 under the same provisions as state public bodies. VACo also supports legislation
82 allowing localities and regional bodies to conduct electronic meetings in the
83 event of an emergency.

84

85 **Funding and Staffing of Constitutional Officers and State-Mandated Positions**

86 VACo urges the commonwealth to meet its full funding obligation for
87 constitutional officers and other state mandated positions. A JLARC study of
88 funding and staffing of constitutional officers and other state mandated positions
89 should be conducted. The study should examine Compensation Board funding
90 as well as alternative funding methods and insure local involvement in changes
91 to funding and staffing of these positions. In particular, the Compensation Board
92 should seek the approval of local governing bodies prior to authorizing new
93 positions or changing reimbursement of fringe benefits and other funding. The
94 study should also examine jail issues including staffing, funding, construction,
95 per diems, operational costs, and benefits. A full fiscal and program analysis
96 should determine state and local responsibilities and whether state funding
97 responsibilities are being met.

98

99 **Grievance Hearings**

100 VACo supports legislation authorizing localities to utilize an administrative
101 hearing officer in lieu of the three-member panel. VACo also supports providing
102 immunity to local government employees, officers, volunteers, administrative
103 hearing officers and panel members for claims arising out of participation in
104 personnel grievance procedures.

105

106 **Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness and Volunteer Recruitment &
107 Retention**

108 VACo urges the General Assembly to maintain current state funding and make
109 certain that localities, often the first responders, are included in the planning
110 process for homeland security and emergency preparedness measures. Federal
111 funds received for homeland security and emergency preparedness must flow
112 through to local agencies, departments and authorities to pay for eligible costs.

113 In furtherance of this goal, VACo supports legislation that provides local option
114 for increased incentives for the recruitment and retention of volunteer public
115 safety personnel who are crucial in these situations.

116

117 **Sheriffs' Departments Staffing Standards**

118 VACo supports legislation to change the Compensation Board's minimum
119 staffing standards to fund at least 10 deputy sheriffs per county. The current
120 standard provides one deputy per 1,500 people, with a minimum state funding
121 level of five deputies per county. In a county with a small population but a large
122 land area, five deputies are simply not adequate to perform 24-hour law
123 enforcement, court security and other legally required duties.

124

125 **Sovereign Immunity**

126 VACo opposes any substantive change in local governments' present defense of
127 sovereign immunity for tort liability.

128

129 **Unfunded Mandates**

130 VACo opposes unfunded mandates by the Commonwealth. When funding for a
131 mandated program is altered, the mandate should be suspended until full
132 funding is restored. When legislation with a cost to localities is passed by the
133 General Assembly, the cost should be borne by the state and the legislation
134 should contain a sunset clause providing that the mandate is not binding on
135 localities until funding by the Commonwealth is provided. Furthermore, VACo
136 opposes the shifting of fiscal responsibility from the state to localities for existing
137 programs. Any unfunded mandate or shifting of responsibility should be
138 accompanied by a full fiscal and program analysis to determine the relative costs
139 to the state and to the locality and to assure the state is meeting its full funding
140 responsibility before taking effect. *PR

141

142

143

Community Development & Planning

144

145

146 **Affordable Housing**

147 VACo supports increased federal and state funding and appropriate incentives
148 to assist localities with their affordable housing.

149

150

151 **Alternative Onsite Sewage Systems**

152 VACo supports state regulations that allow counties to exempt areas within their
153 jurisdiction from the installation of alternative onsite sewage systems due to
154 environmental conditions or other appropriate concerns.

155

156 **Building Design**

157 VACo supports retaining local authority to regulate building design.

158

159 **Civil Penalties for Local Ordinance Violations**

160 VACo supports legislation granting localities general authority to prescribe civil
161 penalties for violations of local ordinances, particularly noise ordinances.

162

163 **Reimbursement for Offsite Improvements**

164 VACo supports allowing localities to require a future developer to reimburse the
165 initial developer a pro rata sum for offsite improvements provided by the initial
166 developer.

167

168 **Economic and Workforce Development**

169 VACo supports increased state funding and support for workforce training and
170 economic development programs as effective means for making the necessary
171 investments in infrastructure and human capital.

172

173 **Cost of Growth**

174 VACo supports local authority for broad impact fees and conditional zoning (i.e.,
175 voluntary proffers) in order to fund fully the public infrastructure and human
176 capital. Current residents should not be expected to bear the cost of new growth
177 through increased real estate taxes.

178

179 **Impacts of Federal Projects and BRAC**

180 VACo supports increased federal and state funding to mitigate the land use,
181 environmental, and transportation impacts on counties affected by major federal
182 projects, including the most recent recommendations of the Defense Base Closure
183 and Realignment Commission (BRAC).

184

185 **Land Use/Growth Management Tools**

186 Authority to plan and regulate land use should remain with local governing
187 bodies and VACo opposes any legislation to weaken that authority.

188 Furthermore, the General Assembly should grant localities the tools necessary to
189 adequately meet citizens' increasing transportation, education, public safety and
190 other vital public infrastructure needs that are driven by new development.

191 Such additional tools may include broad impact fee authority for all counties,
192 adequate public facilities provisions in subdivision ordinances, state funds for
193 the purchase of development rights, and real estate transfer charges. ***PR**
194

195 **Planning Districts**

196 VACo supports the overall funding of Virginia’s planning district commissions
197 at a level of \$0.35 per capita or a minimum of \$100,000 per commission,
198 whichever is greater.
199

200 **State Corporation Commission - Public Service Corporations**

201 VACo supports requiring public utilities to provide written notice to those
202 residing or owning property within the affected areas and to hold a public
203 hearing in that area before they apply to the SCC for a certificate of convenience
204 and necessity to construct or enlarge any facility or power line.
205

206 **State Project Approval**

207 VACo supports authority for counties to approve any projects that are
208 constructed within their jurisdiction using state funds.
209

210 **Water and Sewer Fees**

211 VACo supports allowing counties to enact water and sewer availability fees and
212 mandatory water and sewer connection powers.
213

214 **Education**

215

216

217 **Education Funding**

218 VACo supports full state funding for public education programs, including the
219 Standards of Quality, teacher salaries and retirement costs, the Standards of
220 Accreditation, the Standards of Learning, incentive and categorical aid, and
221 capital and maintenance support.
222

223 VACo opposes changes in methodologies and the division of financial
224 responsibility intended to shift education costs from the state to localities. State
225 education mandates should be relaxed if the Commonwealth reduces general
226 funding for public education. ***PR**
227

228

229

Environment & Agriculture

230

231

232

Biosolids

233

234

235

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

Energy Efficiency

243

244

245

246

247

248

249

Agriculture Production

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

Invasive Species

257

258

259

260

Land Conservation

261

262

263

264

265

VACo supports targeted initiatives to facilitate the protection of 400,000 additional acres of land for conservation purposes by 2010. VACo also supports a Purchase of Development Rights program with state funding for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, and that provides incentives for landowners of all income levels to participate in the program. Such programs preserve prime

266 soils for food production and protect important forestal land and
267 environmentally sensitive areas in the Commonwealth.

268

269 **Non-point Source Pollution**

270 VACo supports a well-financed state program to address the problem of non-
271 point source runoff from agricultural operations that would effectively
272 encourage implementation of priority best management practices such as
273 nutrient management planning, use of cover crops, continuous no-till farming,
274 development of forested riparian buffers, and livestock stream exclusion.

275

276 **Onsite Sewage Systems**

277 VACo supports a legislative study on problems encountered by all localities
278 when enforcing requirements relating to onsite sewage systems, including the
279 five-year pump-out requirement by localities subject to the Chesapeake Bay
280 Preservation Act.

281

282 **Recycling**

283 VACo supports the development of more aggressive strategies by the state to
284 develop markets for recycled materials.

285

286 **Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program**

287 VACo supports continued funding for the Southern Rivers Watershed
288 Enhancement Program to improve water quality in non-Chesapeake Bay
289 watersheds.

290

291 **Stormwater**

292 VACo urges the Soil and Water Conservation Board, prior to approving the
293 newly proposed Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) permit
294 regulations, to analyze the potential fiscal impacts of these rules on local
295 governments. The Commonwealth must assume any and all expenses imposed
296 by these new regulations. The new VSMP regulations expected for final approval
297 in mid-2009 must have achievable objectives tested in "real world" situations,
298 streamlined to minimize administrative reviews by state agencies, and provide
299 localities with flexibility to make appropriate decisions about drainage and land
300 use. Localities enforcing state regulations require full cost recovery through the
301 fee schedule provided by the VSMP regulations. *PR

302

303 **Waste Management Flow Control**

304 VACo supports broad authority for local governments to adopt flow control
305 ordinances.

306

307 **Water Quality Improvement Funding**

308 VACo supports additional state funding and technical assistance to help
309 localities improve water quality in a manner consistent with tributary strategies,
310 implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loading goals, and water quality
311 standards established by the State Water Control Board. VACo strongly opposes
312 the imposition of a state fee, tax or surcharge on water, sewer, solid waste or any
313 other service provided by a local government or authority. *PR

314

315 **Water Supply Planning**

316 VACo supports additional appropriations adequate to ensure full funding by the
317 state for the development of state-mandated water supply plans.

318

319

320

Finance

321

322

323 **County Authorities Including Equal Taxation**

324 VACo supports granting counties the authority cities and towns retain to enact
325 local excise taxes including the cigarette tax, admissions tax, transient occupancy
326 tax and meals tax. VACo also supports granting counties specific powers
327 enumerated to cities and towns under the Uniform Charter Powers Act.

328

329 **Employment Benefits**

330 VACo calls on the state to fully fund state mandated retirement and employment
331 benefits without using funds intended for other purposes (for example, the
332 Literary Fund). Full state funding of mandated benefits includes those required
333 by the Commonwealth for particular classes of employees, including teachers, as
334 well as emergency service, fire and police officials.

335

336 **Land Preservation Tax Credits**

337 VACo urges the Commonwealth to assess the long-term fiscal impact of its land
338 preservation tax credit (LPTC) program on the state and its local governments,
339 and to ensure appropriate coordination with affected local governments. The
340 program protects specific lands from future development in exchange for a
341 defined state income tax credit. The Commonwealth's land preservation tax
342 credit continues to reduce general fund revenues, and includes a broad definition
343 of eligible lands in an attempt to protect vital properties. However, the policy

344 also affects state and local revenues. Regarding the latter point, lands should not
345 be preserved without consideration of local comprehensive plans and the state
346 should ensure that applications for LPTC are consistent with local land use
347 plans.

348

349 **Study of Tax Authority for School Boards**

350 Without advocating either for or against any proposal to authorize tax authority
351 for school boards, VACo supports a legislative study of the issue.

352

353 **Transient Occupancy Tax**

354 VACo supports the authority of counties to apply an existing Transient
355 Occupancy Tax (TOT) to short term rentals – single family residences rented out
356 for continuous occupancy for fewer than 30 days. Additionally regarding the
357 TOT, and as with all local taxes, VACo supports proposals ensuring the
358 appropriate collection of applied and assessed taxes.

359

360 **Virginia's Inclusion in the Streamlined Sales Tax Project Agreement**

361 VACo supports Virginia's inclusion in the Streamlined Sales Tax Project
362 Agreement (SSTP). Inclusion in the multi-state agreement, however, must not
363 compromise the Commonwealth's ability to establish and administer state
364 specific tax policies. Enacted by approximately 20 states and voluntary enforced
365 by more than 1100 national businesses, the agreement authorizes participating
366 states to collect their existing yet often times unenforceable use taxes from out of
367 state vendors. Virginians currently purchasing more than \$100 dollars of goods
368 from out-of-state vendors are required, by statute, to remit the use tax to the
369 Commonwealth. If enacted by the federal government, General Assembly and
370 governor, the SSTP would require vendors to remit the required use taxes. The
371 change would result in increased fairness for taxpayers and competing vendors
372 as well as annual revenue collections to the state and localities.

373

374 **State and Local Fiscal Sustainability**

375 VACo is committed to protecting state and local fiscal stability, which will enable
376 the Commonwealth to provide core public services that are critical to the long-
377 term economic vitality of Virginia. Fiscal stability also ensures the
378 Commonwealth and its local governments can continue to provide cost effective,
379 quality services with equitable and sufficient tax structures. However, difficult
380 financial times such as these require government, at all levels, to evaluate its
381 service delivery and determine the continued importance and viability of the
382 programs created to meet critical service needs. The counties in Virginia stand
383 ready to partner with the Commonwealth to make the tough decisions required.

384 State and local leaders must continue to thoroughly evaluate difficult decisions
385 and work together to maintain a structural balance between revenues and
386 expenditures, which promotes the long-term viability of our Commonwealth.

387 VACo is concerned with protecting the reliability and sustainability of the
388 Commonwealth's general fund, which is critical to state funding of its
389 partnership with local government. The general fund supports most core
390 government functions—public education (K-12 and higher education), health
391 and human resources, public safety, natural resources and environmental
392 services. If one level of government establishes a priority, it is then incumbent
393 upon that level of government to adequately fund the services necessary to meet
394 that priority. The current economic environment threatens the sustainability of
395 these critical services if the Commonwealth reduces its contribution to our
396 financial partnership. For example, VACo opposes state changes in Standard of
397 Quality methodologies and the state and local division of financial responsibility
398 intended to shift education costs to localities. State education mandates should
399 be relaxed if the state reduces general funding for public education.

400

401 VACo also calls upon the Commonwealth to strengthen the stability of the
402 Commonwealth's general fund by initiating state tax reform. Significant tax
403 reform will help reduce pressure on local government leaders who continually
404 must consider raising real estate tax rates to fund K-12 public education, public
405 safety, the comprehensive services act, mental health and mental retardation, and
406 other critical local services. Tax reform should include a restructuring of the state
407 income and sales and use taxes with the intent to stabilize and increase revenues
408 to meet current and foreseeable core service demands. Reform should also
409 include a revisiting of specific state tax reductions the Commonwealth made
410 during good economic times that may no longer be affordable. A critical
411 evaluation of the user fee structure that funds transportation should be made to
412 allow the Commonwealth to address the deteriorating transportation system in
413 the Virginia. Although a core government service, the Commonwealth
414 historically has funded transportation with dedicated non-general funds in order
415 to reserve the general fund for the additional core services. Transferring state
416 general funds to transportation neither adequately supports documented and
417 recurring transportation infrastructure investment needs, nor serves to protect
418 the Commonwealth's additional core services including public education, health
419 care, mental health and retardation, and public safety.

420

421 To meet its mandated level of service delivery local governments require
422 sufficient and sustainable revenue streams. VACo suggests that the

423 Commonwealth grant counties and cities the option, by action of the local
424 governing body without a referendum, the ability to adopt a 0.5 percent sales
425 and use tax to offset state budget reductions to localities. If appropriate to a
426 particular locale, the new dollars will help local leaders to adequately fund K-12
427 public education and the other critical government services; while lessening
428 continued pressure on local property taxes, including real, personal and
429 business. VACo continues to support equal taxing authority for cities and
430 counties.

431
432 VACo supports other actions to preserve local fiscal sustainability. In order to
433 provide public services and to comply with state and federal mandates, counties
434 must be assured of reliable revenues and authorized to adopt and maintain
435 practical financial policies including tax assessment and collection laws.
436 Therefore, VACo supports proposals authorizing counties to adopt prudent
437 budget, revenue and investment policies specific to their communities.
438 Conversely, VACo opposes mandated “one-size-fits-all” budget, revenue and
439 investment policies that disregard local concerns.

440
441 The Commonwealth is experiencing the worst economic crisis since the Great
442 Depression. Therefore, VACo opposes proposals reducing the state budget
443 shortfall at the expense of local fiscal sustainability. Such measures severely
444 restrict the ability of counties to provide state mandated services, including
445 public education, and put increased pressure on local tax revenues including
446 property taxes.

447

Health & Human Resources

448

449

450

Aging/Long-Term Care

451

452 VACo supports efforts that allow the elderly to remain at home in a safe and
453 secure environment. VACo urges the General Assembly to provide sufficient
454 funding for companion services, in home services and home delivered meals.

455

Behavioral Health Care

456

457 The Commonwealth should continue to provide funding sufficient to allow
458 community services boards to adequately meet the charge of providing services
459 through a community-based system of care.

460

461 **Health and Human Resources Funding**

462 VACo supports state policies and funding to ensure the Commonwealth's at-risk
463 families have access to high quality and appropriate services. The Common-
464 wealth should fully fund localities for state mandated human services and
465 provide the necessary program flexibility to enable localities to provide
466 comprehensive and case-tailored services. *PR

467

468 **Healthcare**

469 VACo supports continued state funding for dental care, school nurses and
470 preventive services offered and maternal and child health programs through
471 local health departments and local school systems. VACo encourages the state to
472 prepare for emergency health services and develop incentives that would
473 alleviate the nursing shortages felt in many communities.

474

475 **Prevention Services**

476 VACo supports sufficient state general funding that can be used for startup costs
477 associated with community-based service programs. VACo recognizes that
478 model programs such as Healthy Families, CHIP of Virginia, and the Resource
479 Mother program are model programs that are operated throughout the state and
480 requests the General Assembly provide additional funding for these and other
481 home-based activities. Reductions in prevention programs will put numerous
482 youth at risk of high-end CSA placements.

483

484 **Pretrial Diversion Programs**

485 VACo supports sufficient state general funding that will enhance local pretrial
486 diversion programs that reduce the awaiting trial population, while maintaining
487 public safety through the community supervision.

488

489 **Telecommunications & Utilities**

490

491

492 **Communication Taxation**

493 VACo is resolved to help ensure that the dollars generated by the new statewide
494 communications sales and use tax reform law, on a locality-by-locality basis, are
495 revenue neutral in the early years and escalate in the out years.

496

497

498

499 **Deployment of Universal Affordable Access to High Speed Internet Services**
500 VACo urges the Commonwealth to assist communities in their efforts to deploy
501 universal affordable access to high speed Internet services (“broadband”) to
502 residents, businesses, public safety agencies, schools, hospitals, community
503 centers and libraries, particularly in underserved and rural areas. Widespread
504 deployment of broadband should be a top priority for the Commonwealth to
505 ensure competitive economic advantages, provide quality educational
506 opportunities, and facilitate tele-medicine and other modern health care
507 initiatives. State assistance should include economic incentives as well as
508 statewide budgetary and statutory policies that facilitate broadband deployment
509 and adoption, such as support for federal stimulus applications submitted by or
510 on behalf of Virginia localities, support of local and regional authorities created
511 under the Virginia Wireless Service Authorities Act, and the preservation of the
512 powers granted under the Act, support for Virginia Resources Authority and
513 other favorable financing mechanisms for broadband projects, and continued
514 efforts to improve the quality and accuracy of the state’s broadband availability
515 map. *PR

516

517 **Interoperability**

518 VACo supports the state’s goal that by 2015 agencies and their representatives at
519 the local, regional, state and federal levels are able to communicate using
520 compatible systems, in real time, across disciplines and jurisdictions, to respond
521 more effectively during day-to-day operations and major emergency
522 situations. Local governments require new dedicated federal and state funding
523 sources to achieve this goal.

524

525 **Water and Sewer Lateral Markings**

526 VACo supports legislation to clarify that local government entities are not
527 obligated under the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act to go onto
528 private property where there is no easement to mark known or unknown water
529 and sewer lines.

530

531

532

Transportation

533

534

Billboards

536 VACo supports a requirement that proposed billboards in the Virginia
537 Department of Transportation's (VDOT) right of way conform to local zoning
538 and other applicable ordinances and local approval processes.

539

Bridges

541 VACo requests that adequate state funding be provided for repair and
542 replacement of substandard bridges throughout the Commonwealth.

543

Inter-Directional Signage Program

545 VACo supports a requirement that any signs installed under VDOT's Inter-
546 directional Sign Program, including the Tourist Oriented Directional Signs
547 Program, conform to local ordinances, including any local approval processes.

548

Parking

550 VACo supports authority for counties to adopt ordinances regulating - including
551 prohibiting - the parking of boats, RVs, utility trailers, campers, etc. on
552 subdivision streets.

553

Pedestrians

555 VACo supports revisions to Virginia's existing pedestrian laws clarifying the
556 responsibilities of drivers and pedestrians in order to reduce the number of
557 pedestrian injuries and fatalities that occur each year. In addition, VACo
558 supports a requirement that drivers stop for pedestrians in crosswalks when a
559 pedestrian is within the half of the roadway that the vehicle is traveling and the
560 speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

561

Rail Enhancement Fund Approval

563 VACo supports authority for counties to approve Rail Enhancement Fund
564 projects funded by the state that are constructed within their jurisdictions.

565

Rest stops

567 VACo supports federal legislation to allow commercialization of rest stops on the
568 interstate highway system in Virginia.

569

570 **Road Construction and Maintenance**

571 VACo opposes any legislation or regulations that would require the transfer of
572 responsibility to counties for construction, maintenance or operation of new and
573 existing secondary roads.

574

575 **Securities for Subdivision Streets**

576 VACo supports authority for a local governing body to determine requirements
577 for developer securities for the construction of subdivision streets.

578

579 **Separation of Federal Funds**

580 VACo supports granting each county the authority, working with VDOT, to
581 determine the percentage of federal funds applied to all secondary road projects
582 within their jurisdiction. In addition, for any locally administered road projects,
583 the county should be allowed to use all state funds, as long as they can obligate
584 their federal funds on other projects.

585

586 **Service Contracts**

587 VACo supports administrative changes allowing all localities to use professional
588 service contracts similar to other agencies of the Commonwealth (i.e. General
589 Services.)

590

591 **Transportation Funding**

592 VACo continues to maintain that an efficient transportation network is crucial to
593 sustainable economic growth, a cleaner environment, and enhanced public safety
594 and quality of life. VACo therefore urges the Governor of Virginia and the
595 Virginia General Assembly to enact a significant transportation funding package
596 to include dedicated, new, significant and recurring annual revenues to address
597 the Commonwealth's documented transportation infrastructure needs. New
598 revenues should include but not be limited to gas tax revenues. Dedicated, new,
599 significant and recurring annual revenues are required to eliminate the road
600 maintenance shortfall; increase funding directed to interstate and primary
601 highways, urban and secondary roads, and transit projects; guard against the
602 transfer of general funds to transportation; and address the unique
603 transportation needs of specific regions of the Commonwealth including
604 Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia.

605

606 Transferring state general funds to transportation neither adequately supports
607 documented and recurring transportation infrastructure investment needs, nor

608 serves to protect the Commonwealth's additional core services including public
609 education, health care, mental health and retardation, and public safety. ***PR**

610

611 **Transportation Revenue Sharing**

612 VACo supports restoration of the Revenue Sharing program to the structure that
613 existed prior to the 2006 session with robust funding. Maintenance projects
614 should be eligible for matching funds under the revenue sharing program. ***PR**

615

616 **VDOT Cooperation**

617 VACo requests full cooperation and responsiveness from VDOT in addressing
618 local government concerns.

619

620

* * *

PRELIMINARY