

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COALITION

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2009 Northern Virginia Business Community Resolution

WHEREAS, greater investment in transportation infrastructure is essential to short-term economic recovery and long-term economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, transportation-dedicated taxes and fees have remained virtually unchanged in Virginia since 1987; and

WHEREAS, documented unfunded transportation requirements exceed \$100 billion, including more than \$3.7 billion in structurally deficient bridges and \$1 billion in interstate and primary highway repaving needs; and

WHEREAS, inadequate capacity and poor pavement conditions annually cost \$4.7 billion or nearly \$1,000 per licensed Virginia driver in accidents, operating costs and congestion-related delays; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's Six-Year Improvement Program, which has experienced over \$4 billion in cuts in the past two years, is not an accurate reflection of the Commonwealth's acute transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, \$400 million in Virginia's Transportation Trust Fund for construction is diverted annually to the Highway Maintenance and Operations Fund, and the annual growth factor for state maintenance funds to localities has been reduced from 4% to 3%, leaving fewer funds to meet growing needs; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation has already significantly consolidated operations and reduced personnel by 2,000 with 1,000 more scheduled by next July; and

WHEREAS, the revenue stream created by 2007 legislation to support \$3 billion in transportation bonds over a ten-year period is currently capable of funding only \$2 billion worth of bonds and is insufficient to support any bonds before 2010; and

WHEREAS, declining state revenues and expanding needs have increased Virginia's dependence upon federal funds at a time when the state soon will be unable to provide federal matching dollars, meaning that for every \$20 in matching dollars the Commonwealth lacks it forgoes \$80 federal dollars; and

WHEREAS, the federal surface transportation program is up for re-authorization this year and future allocation levels are very much in doubt; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth lacks funds for transportation infrastructure to attract new business and supplement public-private partnership transportation investments; and

WHEREAS, the organizations listed below have previously affirmed support for a minimum of \$400 million per year in new, dedicated, sustainable transportation funds for Northern Virginia and for the position that such funds must not be viewed or used as a replacement for new or existing state transportation revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the undersigned organizations are united in the position that:

- Bonds, public-private partnerships, General Funds, allocation formula changes, tolls and other currently used mechanisms are part of the solution, but are inadequate individually or collectively to address well-documented needs.
- Fiscal and political realities dictate that the Commonwealth's transportation needs cannot be met without new, reliable revenues in the form of dedicated taxes and/or fees.
- No-tax pledges on transportation funding by candidates for public office are contrary to the best interests of the citizens of the Commonwealth and future economic prosperity.
- Virginia's next Governor and members of both parties in the state legislature must work together and do whatever is necessary to secure significant, new, dedicated, reliable transportation revenues to erase Virginia's crippling transportation deficit, which threatens Virginia's long-term prosperity.

**Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington
Arlington Chamber of Commerce • Committee for Dulles
Dulles Area Transportation Association • Dulles Corridor Rail Association
Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce • Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
NAIOP Northern Virginia, Commercial Real Estate Development Association
Northern Virginia Association of Realtors
Northern Virginia Building Industry Association • Northern Virginia Technology Council
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce • Reston Association
Prince William County-Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce
Washington Airports Task Force**