



**Virginia's Long-Range Multimodal  
Transportation Plan  
2007-2035**

**VTrans2035 FORUM  
SUMMARY  
October 16, 2009**

**Prepared for:  
Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment  
October 2009**

**Prepared by:  
Wilbur Smith Associates**



What: VTrans2035 Forum  
 When: Friday, October 16, 2009  
 Where: Virginia Housing Center – Innsbrook Office Park  
 Why: To inform stakeholders of VTrans2035 progress and receive input on draft recommendations  
 Hosts: Ralph Davis, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment  
 Dr. Mary Lynn Tischer, Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment

Attendees:

Barron, Marshall	VDOT- Culpeper
Bennett, Dale	Virginia Trucking Association
Benson, Todd	Piedmont Environmental Council
Bryant, Robert	Buckingham Branch Railroad
Burnley, Champe	Richmond Area Bike Association
Canizales, Ricardo	Prince William County
Chase, Bob	Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
Clark, Scott	GRTC
Craddock, Tyler	Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Cusick, Shane	Bike Walk Virginia
Diedrich, Roger	Virginia Conservation Network
Foster, Anthony	PRTC
Foster, Melody	Virginia's Heartland Commonwealth Regional Council
Harris, Denise	Faquier County Water Resource Mgmt Program/APA
Homewood, George	APA
Hugeback, Aaron	Virginia Association of Counties
Kessler, Jeff	VDOT - Lynchburg
Malouff, Dan	Arlington County, Department of Environmental Services, Transportation Division
McClenny, Rita	Virginia Tourism Corporation
McMinimy, Linda	Virginia Transit Association
Miller, Kathy	Virginia Department of Aging
Necessary Jr., Donny	VDOT - Bristol
Pollard, Trip	Southern Environmental Law Center
Proctor, Charlie	VDOT -Culpeper
Ridgeway, Mary	FHWA-Virginia
Robinson, Lloyd	Fredericksburg Area MPO
Schefer, Leo	Washington Airports Task Force
Schwenk, Barbara	Accomack-Northampton PDC
Scott, Stan	Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority
Tran, Tiffany	NSVRC
Vye, Bud	Virginia Bicycling Federation/Richmond MPO CTAC
Wampler, Jennifer	Department of Conservation and Recreation
Williams, Steve	Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
Wingo, Bruce	Norfolk Southern Corporation

<b>Multimodal Advisory Committee Members</b>	
Biesiadny, Tom	Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Davis, Ralph	Office of Secretary of Transportation, Intermodal Planning and Investment
Donohue, Nick	Office of Secretary of Transportation
Farrelly, Kevin	Office of Secretary of Transportation
Fiol, Marsha	VDOT - TMPD
Graham, Kathy	VDOT – Multimodal Planning Office
Grier, Robin	VDOT - TMPD
Harrington, Rusty	Virginia Department of Aviation
Inman, Amy	Virginia department of Rail and Public Transportation
Lysy, Dan	Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
Mannell, Ben	VDOT - TMPD
Pardo, Valerie	VDOT
Picard, Andy	Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
Shelton, Brad	VDOT
Tischer, Mary Lynn	VDOT – Multimodal Planning Office
<b>Consultants</b>	
Alexandrow, Nick	VHB
Carpenter, Linda	Wilbur Smith Associates
Eddy, Craig	Wilbur Smith Associates
Gay, Chris	VHB
Haase, Jessica	Renaissance Planning Group
Parkins, Lorna	Michael Baker Jr. Inc.
Twaddell, Hannah	Renaissance Planning Group

### Agenda

- Purpose and Introductions by Mary Lynn Tischer
- Planning Horizons and Future Planning Directions by Linda Carpenter
- Corridors of Statewide Significance by Chris Gay and Nick Alexandrow
- Regional Accessibility by Hannah Twaddell
- Transportation and Land Use by Nick Donohue
- VTrans Priorities by Ralph Davis
- Surface Transportation Plan Update by Amy Inman and Brad Shelton

### Background

Everyone invited to this VTrans2035 Forum had been invited to a previous stakeholder meeting – either the Stakeholder Listening Session held in March 2009 or the Regional Planning Forum held in April 2009. VTrans2035, the Commonwealth’s state and federally required long-range transportation plan, establishes policy recommendations that provide direction for statewide transportation planning across all modes – road, rail, transit, air, water, bicycling, and walking. VTrans2035 addresses critical transportation issues and identifies major strategic investments that are critical to the Commonwealth and its transportation infrastructure and programs.

The previous plan, VTrans2025, was submitted to the Governor and General Assembly in December 2004. The update to 2035 includes the analysis of demographic and economic data, and identification of current policy issues and trends. The effort involves coordinating with the Commonwealth's metropolitan planning organizations and modal administrations to ensure the goals and objectives of plans are consistent across Virginia. A key outcome will be the identification of 10-12 strategic investments.

This paper summarizes comments received on each topic of the agenda. Presentations are available on the web at [www.vtrans.org](http://www.vtrans.org). Only stakeholder suggestions and statements are included in this summary; specific questions and team responses are excluded. Prevailing issues that transcend individual agenda items are noted in the conclusion section.

### Planning Horizons and Future Planning Directions – Linda Carpenter

Ms. Carpenter's presentation focused on the wide perspective taken while looking into the future. She highlighted potential change agents and planning directions needed to address those changes. Comments included:

- Need to identify and preserve right-of-way (ROW).
- Importance of research and development (R&D) of technologies.
- In the past, we used to walk to work – which defined the shape of the city, once we invented transit – cities were expanded, later cars created personal mobility. When talking about transit we need to talk about a viable alternative to cars, new technology in cars can turn cars into a personal transit system. We need to look at what technology can do to improve our mobility, what is on the edge of new transit systems w/ newer technologies, we need R&D pilot programs, and we need to attract new industries to VA.
- The priority to maintain investment needs to include expanding transit to ensure regional mobility

### Corridors of Statewide Significance - Chris Gay and Nick Alexandrow

This presentation highlighted the 11 Corridors of Statewide Significance (CoSS), their functions, and potential strategies to address functionality. It was noted that these corridors are currently under review by a subcommittee of the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Comments received include:

- Statewide planning should be formulated on the understanding of mobility "desires". Without Origin-Destination (O-D) surveys the estimation of intercity bus/rail trips is difficult.
- Rail recommendations are strategies. The real challenge will be how to implement the strategies developed as a result of synthesizing Statewide Rail Study recommendations with Norfolk Southern and CSX capital improvement plans.

- Route 29 Study recommendations should be integrated into VTrans2035 to the extent that they are available at the time VTrans2035 is concluded.
- Concern was expressed that the Route 29 Study was overriding local planning.
- Metro rail extensions may create serious capacity issues on the Metro system.
- Recommendations regarding intelligent transportation systems (ITS) in rural areas seem to have been overlooked.
- ITS in urban areas can be improved as well. Provision of alternative routing directions on variable message signs would be a welcomed improvement.
- Concern over the emphasis of increasing capacity on highways in most corridors was expressed.
- Stakeholders would have appreciated more than 3 weeks to conduct meaningful review of the draft recommendations report.
- Integration of land use and transportation planning should be moved to the first priority on the list.
- The expansion of highway capacity to relieve freight bottlenecks is a missing strategy.
- Completing critical infrastructure links could be an additional strategy.
- Richmond's marine highway program (James River barge service) merits mentioning.
- Recommendations should include improving connections between Northern Virginia and bordering states (MD, WV).
- Cluster of roads included in the I-95 corridor is too inclusive. It may make sense to break out some of the roads considered in this grouping.
- Concern over the lack of recommendations for pedestrian, bike and local traffic was expressed.
- Local traffic can be a strong contributor to congestion on long-distance routes and may warrant attention in some corridors.
- Create technological innovations to increase capacity and improve flow.
- Recommendations could be subdivided by urban and rural strategies.

#### Regional Accessibility – Hannah Twaddell

Ms. Twaddell's presentation focused on ways of balancing proximity and mobility, the determinants of regional accessibility. Comments included:

- Potentially add demand to the list of influences (the fives D's are density, diversity, design, destination, distance to transit)
- Missing critical links in the transportation infrastructure should be included in the final report.
- Preserving future ROW needs should be considered.
- Metrics for accessibility are needed if accessibility is to be used as a criterion.
- Caution was expressed about the comparison of population and employment trends. It was emphasized that employment trends can only continue where population supports those trends.

- Preservation of freight routes from the corridors of statewide significance to and within urban areas is very important to freight movement.
- It was stated that exclusivity of high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes would have a negative effect on freight mobility.
- Desire for VTrans2035 to address disconnect between land use (controlled at the local level) and transportation (controlled at the state level) was expressed.

#### Transportation and Land Use – Nick Donohue

Assistant Secretary Nick Donohue gave a brief summary of the presentation he made to the Commonwealth Transportation Board on actions to improve coordination of transportation and land use decisions. Comments received include:

- VTrans2035 should recognize that transportation is influenced by more than just land use and should consider other dynamics (housing, jobs, environment, sustainability, etc.) and consider that land use is not just a local issue since local land use influences adjacent communities.
- Job/housing balance is an important dynamic.
- Need a catalyst for a greater holistic approach to look at all things that impact the environment.
- VTrans should be the centralizing force since it is the element that ties together land use, the economy, and people.
- VTrans should provide incentives (potentially conditional grants?) for local governments that adhere to philosophies which seek to preserve open space, create density, interconnect transportation infrastructure, etc.

#### VTrans Priorities – Ralph Davis

Deputy Secretary Davis outlined the VTrans2035 priorities as they are now, but indicated that they are currently under review by a subcommittee of the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Comments received include:

- The outlined priorities don't include environmental stewardship/sustainability.
- "Completing Unfinished PPTA Project" priority with identified projects was thought to be too specific.
- The title "Toll Projects" was suggested as an alternative to "PPTA Projects".
- The priority of maintaining economic competitiveness seems to be in direct competition with the priority of completing unfinished PPTA projects.
- Report should state that VTrans is not providing priorities and guidelines under budgetary constraints.
- Consider changing "compact mixed-use development" to "development linked to transit services".
- Consider changing "managing metropolitan congestion" to "minimize congestion".
- Bike/pad facilities could be referenced in "compact mixed-use development"

- Consider including Travel Demand Management as a priority

Surface Transportation Plan Update – Amy Inman and Brad Shelton

Ms. Inman from DRPT and Mr. Shelton from VDOT gave a brief summary of the status of the Surface Transportation Plan that integrates the modal plans from their agencies. Comments received include:

- **DRPT**
  - Subsidy requirements should be a consideration for transit priorities.
  - ITS for transit (AVL – Automated Vehicle Location technology) should be considered
  - The link shown between population growth and transit demand was questioned since density drives transit use.
- **VDOT**
  - Roadway components of the Surface Transportation Plan should closely align with principal arterials
  - The inclusion of pedestrian facilities and access is very important to some who fear that the absence of such in the statewide plan may lead to the exclusion of them at the MPO level.

General Comments

- When this is presented, it must be made clear that a lot of work has gone into it, but unfortunately a lot of these things will never happen if funding is not available.
- Virginia’s quality of life is at risk. These recommendations are being made to meet the needs of the Commonwealth, but funding is essential.
- Inform the public regarding how their input will be used in this process after the final report is released.
- Make sure Trip Pollard’s comments presented earlier in the year are included in next version of the report.
- Need more effective feedback loop for VTrans2035 products.

Comment Cards

At the end of the Forum, feedback on comment cards was solicited from attendees. The following table summarizes the scores and the comments received.

Ranked on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being low and 5 being high)	Number of Comments
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1.	How well was the purpose of the meeting explained?	<b>Poorly</b>			<b>Very Well</b>	
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		-	-	4	13	4

2.	How would you rate your understanding of VTrans2035 recommendations since this forum?	<b>Poor</b>			<b>Very Good</b>	
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		-	-	3	9	9
3.	Were the presentations meaningful?	<b>No</b>			<b>Meaningful</b>	
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		-	-	1	13	7

**Comments**

Release information prior to meeting and allow for comments prior to meeting

Very helpful in understanding state-wide needs

Please use other methods of providing and communicating draft recommendations other than by web. The rural portions of Virginia still have a low percentage of web access.

Meeting today was fine; Overall through this process, it is has been difficult/confusing to try to determine what meetings occurred when (stakeholder listening meetings, NP workshops, etc.)

Good presentations. Good discussion.

Well organized. Good climate for feedback and input.

An explanation of the state's role and potential funding strategies was lacking in the discussion on forum.

Allow more time for questions. Refer attendees to website prior to meeting in case they want to print out presentations.

A list of projects that are recommended would have been nice to review. Seemed we only focused on "Big Picture"... need to get to details and recommendations proposed.

Make sure agenda is sent to participants prior to meeting

Improve outreach to public (more meetings) to improve understanding by the public.

A meeting accessible by means other than car would be novel

Too much Power Point; speakers were good; Power Points were distracting and competitive.

Great process and thoughtful.

Very good forum – thank you for including me.

Share agenda & minutes on website; post plan/recommendations online too!