



Virginia's Transportation Funding Crisis: Maintenance Funding Shortfall

FACT SHEET

- The 2011 General Assembly funding allocation of \$3.2 billion for transportation infrastructure is a start to addressing Virginia's ongoing transportation funding crisis; however this funding only addresses a small portion of a much larger problem. Virginia needs \$1 billion annually to address its transportation needs. The Commonwealth's leaders must implement a long-term, sustainable transportation funding solution immediately.
- There is a statutory requirement that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) addresses transportation maintenance needs first before new construction projects. However, to do so would break the bank. Maintenance of our existing transportation infrastructure is a critical need - and an important part of a long-term solution - that cannot go unaddressed.
- The Commonwealth's transportation maintenance funding problems began in 2002 when VDOT was required by law to transfer money from its construction budget to fund basic transportation maintenance needs.
- This fiscal year (2011), VDOT transferred more than \$400 million from its construction budget to its maintenance budget, and the amount needed for maintenance continues to grow at approximately \$50 million a year.
- VDOT's maintenance deficit for FY 2011 is estimated to be \$511 million.
- With a maintenance budget deficit, funding for new, much-needed construction projects or for primary, secondary, urban or unpaved roads statewide is adversely impacted.
- In September 2009, VDOT reported that the annual investment needed to maintain and operate its network of roads, bridges and other structures for FY 2011 and FY 2012 is \$1.885 billion and \$1.899 billion, respectively, or a total of \$3.784 billion.
- VDOT reported its proposed maintenance budgets for FY 2011 and FY 2012 are \$1.410 billion and \$1.451 billion, respectively. The gap between needs and available funds is approximately \$923 million during the next two fiscal years.
- Determining immediate ways during the 2012 General Assembly to allocate funding to the state's transportation maintenance budget will not only address Virginia's maintenance needs, but it will also allow for millions of dollars to remain in the construction budget. This will provide funding for new, much-needed projects to help relieve the stress on the Commonwealth's failing transportation system.