



## MODERNIZING TRANSPORTATION IN VIRGINIA

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Governor Northam's transportation package is sponsored by House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn (HB1414) and Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw (SB890).

### MAKING DRIVING SAFER

Since 2014, fatalities on Virginia highways have increased by more than 15 percent. This legislation implements a number of proven safety policies to save lives on our roadways, including:

- ✓ Banning open containers of alcohol in passenger area of motor vehicles;
- ✓ Requiring all passengers to wear safety belts,
- ✓ Prohibiting use of handheld cell phones while driving,
- ✓ Improving speed enforcement on select highway safety corridors; and
- ✓ Authorizing localities to lower speed limits in neighborhoods and business districts.

Combined, these measures are expected to reduce fatalities on Virginia roadways by 15-20 percent, or 120-160 people each year. That means saving two to three lives each week.

Legislation also establishes an advisory council to oversee education and enforcement of these provisions. This council will include traffic safety organizations, members of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and social justice and equity organizations.

### SUSTAINABLE, STREAMLINED FUNDING

Despite Virginians driving more than ever, revenues from motor vehicle taxes have continued to drop. This trend will only get worse, with KPMG estimating a 33 percent reduction in Virginia gas tax collections by 2030 resulting in revenues below \$500 million in 2030.

This legislation increases the sustainability of our transportation funding model by:

- ✓ Raising the gas tax by 4 cents/year for 3 years and indexing it to inflation
- ✓ Introducing a tiered approach to capturing fuel efficiency
- ✓ Cutting passenger vehicle registration fees in half, starting in FY22

Currently, transportation revenues are distributed in an opaque and confusing manner. This legislation streamlines distribution by funding all programs through the Commonwealth Transportation Fund.

### **TRANSFORMING RAIL AND TRANSIT**

We cannot pave our way out of gridlock. This bold package invests in transit to ensure Virginians and goods can move quickly and efficiently across our Commonwealth.

- ✓ Creates the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority to promote and expand passenger and commuter rail service throughout Virginia;
- ✓ Stabilizes transit revenues
- ✓ Establishes a Transit Incentive Program, which will promote improved transit service and reduce barriers to transit use by low-income individuals.