

Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

MEMORANDUM

TO: Christopher Zimmerman, Chairman
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

Members
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

FROM: Tom Biesiadny, Chairman
Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

SUBJECT: Update on General Assembly Activities (Agenda Item VIII.)

DATE: May 2, 2008

The General Assembly held their annual reconvene (veto) session on April 23, 2008, to consider Governor Kaine's amendments to the biennium budget and to individual bills. There was only one bill that the Governor amended that had transportation implications. It was SB 464 (Whipple) which establishes the Virginia Commission on Energy and Environment. One of the Governor's amendments would have provided that the Department of Environmental Quality request that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) annually provide information to maintain a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for roads throughout the Commonwealth, including information regarding annual vehicle miles traveled, traffic trends, and characteristics of vehicles. The Governor's amendments to this bill were not accepted by the Senate.

In addition, the Governor made one transportation related amendment to the budget. That amendment to Item 458 encourages VDOT to promote the construction and improvement of primary and secondary roads by counties, whether or not those improvements are contained in the Six Year Program.

No action was taken regarding the restoration of NVTA's funding or to address statewide transportation funding needs. The Governor is expected to release a transportation funding plan. He is indicated publicly that the plan will include both a statewide transportation funding piece and provisions related to Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. He has also indicated that following the release of his plan, he will call a special session of the General Assembly approximately 30 days later. He has said he hope such a special session can be held this "Spring."

In the meantime, NVTA's efforts to keep the issue before the public are beginning to bear fruit. Several videos describing commuting conditions in Northern Virginia have been submitted. In addition, more than 100 people have signed NVTA's petition on line.

Christopher Zimmerman, Chairman

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Jurisdiction and Agency Coordination Committee members will be available at the May 8, 2008, NVTA meeting to answer questions.

cc: Members, NVTA Jurisdiction and Agency Coordinating Committee
John Mason, Executive Director