



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219 2000

Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E.
Commissioner

January 28, 2014

To: Mayors and County Board Chairmen

Earlier this month, Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed me as your Commissioner of Highways. I am humbled and excited by this opportunity. I follow a tremendous leader, Commissioner Greg Whirley. Under his leadership, VDOT focused on building accountability, getting back to the basics of business fundamentals and launching greatly needed transportation improvements.

Local government plays an essential role in the successful delivery of transportation solutions for the commonwealth. I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and communicate my perspective on the importance of our continued partnership.

As this administration embarks on a new year, we find ourselves in the fortunate situation of implementing the first major transportation legislation since 1986. VDOT is well positioned to take on this responsibility and is committed to improving our existing infrastructure and overseeing prudent investment in much needed capital improvements.

Relative to this, I want to share the expectations that I communicated to the VDOT team on my first day on the job:

- ***Our job is to solve problems.*** We'll recognize that solutions to transportation problems, no matter how simple or complex, go beyond engineering and construction and involve quality of life, economic opportunity and environmental stewardship. A good solution we can deliver is better than a great solution we can't. While processes and procedures are critical, they should and will not constrain the delivery of our projects, programs and services.
- ***We will never forget who we work for – motorists, taxpayers and citizens of Virginia.*** They entrust us to spend their money wisely and we will. We will listen to their concerns to understand their perspective and needs so we can provide the right solutions.

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- ***We will deliver an excellent transportation program by preserving our existing infrastructure and making new improvements.*** We will do our jobs safely and efficiently. We will be held accountable.

We can't deliver on these things without your help. It is my expectation that VDOT will regularly look to you and your staff for insight and input on how we prioritize our efforts. Your knowledge of local issues is critical to our success. I also expect VDOT to be a resource for your locality, professional, trustworthy and a committed partner. To that end, I will continue to emphasize the importance of the role of the Residency Administrator, and ask that you continue to partner with them moving forward.

As you're well aware, VDOT relies heavily on our local partners to successfully deliver improvements for our citizens. Let me first give you a couple of examples of the benefits of this partnership. Through our collective efforts, locally administered projects have become a mainstay and now represent approximately one third of the projects in our construction program. Further, we have and will continue to promote the state/local matching Revenue Sharing Program. We have recently received applications for FY15 totaling nearly \$184 million in requests. We are committed to working with the Commonwealth Transportation Board to fully fund this program. Full funding of this program will result in the delivery of approximately \$840 million in local priorities. This return on investment is the direct result of your active engagement in this program.

In order to build on these successes, I urge you to encourage your staff's continued participation in our annual Local Programs Workshop. This is a great opportunity for VDOT, industry, and local government staff to learn from one another and engage in robust dialogue on how to make the local program stronger. This year's workshop is scheduled for September 17 & 18, in Roanoke.

I look forward to strengthening our partnership and remain optimistic for the opportunities that lie ahead in this regard. If you have thoughts that you'd like to share please feel free to call me at 804-786-2701 or drop me a note at Charlie.Kilpatrick@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Kilpatrick, P.E.
Commissioner of Highways