

2. HIGHWAY MATTERS**A. ECONOMIC ACCESS ROAD – SOUTHAMPTON COMMERCE AND LOGISTICS CENTER**

You may recall adopting a resolution last August requesting the Commonwealth Transportation Board to provide Economic Development Access funding to construct an adequate road into the *Southampton Commerce and Logistics Center* (formerly, the Turner Tract) from Rose Valley Road. On November 19, 2009, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved \$650,000 in funding, subject to 4 conditions:

- 1) That all right-of-way, environmental assessments/remediation and utility adjustments be provided at no cost to the Commonwealth;
- 2) That the county will enter into a contractual agreement with VDOT to provide for:
 - a) design, administration, construction and maintenance of the road;
 - b) payment of all ineligible costs or eligible costs in excess of the allocation; and
 - c) provision of an appropriate bond providing for reimbursement to VDOT if \$3.25 million is not privately invested in the park prior to November 19, 2014;
- 3) That the county provide \$150,000 in matching funds; and
- 4) That VDOT shall be responsible for final determination of qualifying private investment in accordance with its policies and procedures for administering the Economic Development Access Program.

MOTION REQUIRED: A motion is required to authorize the county administrator to execute the contractual agreement with VDOT and to administer the project.

B. STAGE III IMPLEMENTATION - VDOT'S BLUEPRINT FOR DOWNSIZING

As you're aware, the 2009 General Assembly adopted legislation that ordered a reduction of 1,100 VDOT employees by June 30, 2010. In order to meet this mandate, VDOT has worked over the last 12 months to redefine and realign its organizational structure, which they shared with me on April 14. Many of the changes will be implemented at the close of business on April 23 and all of them will be in place by July 1. Among the most visible changes that you'll notice are:

- 1) Citizens will no longer have direct access to staff at the Area Headquarters – they will be locked throughout the day;
- 2) There will be no more "walk-in" service at the local Residency Office – maintenance issues will have to be reported through a Call Center (located in Salem, VA) by calling 1-800-367-7623;

- 3) VDOT staff will no longer attend meetings of the Board of Supervisors;
- 4) All local permits, plat approvals, plan approvals, etc. will be moved from the local Residency to the District Office in Suffolk;
- 5) Local Residencies will no longer focus on new construction, six-year plans, etc. – their time and energy will be devoted entirely to maintenance;
- 6) The Waverly Residency Office will be closed and the Franklin Residency will now assume maintenance responsibility for Sussex and Isle of Wight counties (in addition to their current workload of Emporia, Franklin, Greenville and Southampton);
- 7) VDOT will appoint a “local liaison” to work with local governments on engineering and financial issues, such as project management, permit review and approvals, secondary six-year plan, traffic studies, etc.;
- 8) VDOT’s “local liaison” will be responsible for Emporia, Franklin, Greenville, Southampton, Surry, Sussex, and portions of James City and Williamsburg;
- 9) Town councils will no longer have direct access to VDOT and must coordinate all their issues through the county government and its designated “local liaison.”

I anticipate that the call volume related to transportation issues at our office will rise substantially upon implementation of the blueprint – there will no longer be a local VDOT point-of-contact and the only means by which citizens may communicate their problems or concerns will be via the 1-800 call center. Maintenance crews will no longer be dispatched for any issues unless the call center generates a work order.