

RECEIVED JUN 30 2010



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

GREGORY A. WHIRLEY
ACTING COMMISSIONER
June 23, 2010

Mr. Michael Johnson
County Administrator
Post Office Box 410
Courtland, Virginia 23837

SUBJECT: Enhancement Program – The 1831 Southampton Insurrection Tour

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Congratulations! On June 16, 2010 your application for Enhancement Program funds was approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) in the amount of \$420,000. Meetings will be held this fall in several different areas of the state to discuss necessary steps for implementation of your enhancement project. You will receive a notification of those Project Sponsor meetings once they have been scheduled.

Please do not expend any funds or initiate any phase of your project, for which you wish to be reimbursed, until you are authorized in writing by VDOT to do so. **Since this is a federally funded program, starting any project activities before securing proper authorization would jeopardize federal participation in the entire project.** These funds are for the federal fiscal year that begins October 1, 2010 so no authorization of funds can occur before then. The current federal transportation legislation (SAFETEA-LU) expired on September 30, 2009 and we are currently operating under a continuing resolution that will provide funding through December 31, 2010. Another continuation of SAFETEA-LU or passage of new legislation may be needed before all of the Enhancement Program funds are available.

The next deadline for Enhancement Program applications is December 1, 2010. Based on revisions made to the CTB's Enhancement Policy last year, only existing projects will be considered for additional funding for the next cycle. Please visit the Enhancement Program website at: <http://www.viriniadot.org/business/prehancegrants.asp> for information about the application process.

If you have any questions about implementing this project, please contact your VDOT District Enhancement Project Coordinator, Mr. Steven Rowan at (757) 925-2459. Thank you for your interest in Virginia's Transportation Enhancement Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Wade Chenault, Jr.".

H. Wade Chenault, Jr.
Federal Programs Manager
Local Assistance Division

Cc: Mr. Aubrey Layne, Jr.

SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY



26022 Administration Ctr. Dr.
P.O. Box 400
Courtland, Virginia 23837

757-653-3015
Fax: 757-653-0227

July 1, 2010

Mrs. Melanie R. Beale
External Affairs Manager
Dominion Resources Services, Inc.
4059 Ironbound Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188-2507

RE: Rebecca Vaughan House

Dear Mrs. Beale:

On behalf of the Southampton County Board of Supervisors, I am delighted to provide this unequivocal endorsement of the grant application submitted by the Southampton County Historical Society to the Dominion Foundation for restoration of the Rebecca Vaughan House, a one-and-a-half-story, four-room frame dwelling, listed on the **National Historic Register**.

On August 22, 1831, Nat Turner, a slave, was accompanied by as many as 70 followers as they cut a bloody path through the quiet farms and forests of southwest Southampton County, killing between 55 and 60 white men, women and children. The Rebecca Vaughan House has the distinction of being the last house where residents were killed by Turner's followers. Turner's insurrection is mentioned in nearly every American history book and is a Standard of Learning (SOL) requirement in Virginia.

Moved in 2004 from its original location on the Vaughan farm to the *Museum of Southampton History* campus in Courtland, the restored dwelling will function as a Visitor's Center for the **Southampton Insurrection Driving Tour**. Here, the public will be able to learn about the rebellion, explore the notorious route traveled by Turner and his insurgents, and discover period artifacts, including Turner's sword and the lock from his jail cell. The visitor's center will serve as the trailhead for a self-directed driving tour, featuring more than 20 related points of interest across the Southampton County countryside.

Thus far, this project has received generous financial support from The Camp Foundation, Franklin-Southampton Charities, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and Southampton County, among others. I was notified earlier this week by the Commonwealth Transportation Board that our application for Enhancement Program funds in the amount of \$420,000 has been approved. We're very close to marshaling all the necessary resources to bring this project to fruition, and Dominion's contribution can put us over the top.

Hero to some, villain to others – the Nat Turner story deserves to be objectively told for people to draw their own conclusions – here, in Southampton County, where it all happened.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Johnson".

Michael W. Johnson
County Administrator