

**BLUEPRINT FOR THE
FUTURE**

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1700 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA 23434

DAVID S. EKERN, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

March 5, 2009

Mr. Michael W. Johnson
Southampton County Administrator
P. O. Box 400
Courtland, Virginia 23837

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Recently the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) announced a comprehensive plan to address long-term funding reductions that will significantly change services the agency provides to Virginians including planned reductions to rest areas, Safety Service Patrols, mowing/roadside maintenance, ferry services and the consolidation of VDOT residency offices.

We are committed to keeping you informed about these proposed changes and are working to gather feedback on these proposed plans. I am writing today to ensure you are aware of these efforts and how they fit into the context of VDOT's mission to plan, build, operate, and maintain a safe and efficient highway system.

These service changes support the three-part Blueprint for the Future—our comprehensive forward-thinking plan to address a \$2.6 billion funding shortfall over the next six years.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board implemented the first part of the blueprint — reductions in the number of new projects that will be built — when it adopted a revised Fiscal Years 2009-2014 Six-Year Improvement Program on February 13th. The revised program cuts \$2 billion in funding, delaying or eliminating 808 projects or project phases statewide.

The second part of the Blueprint involves VDOT staffing changes and organizational restructuring. VDOT announced that it will reduce 1,000 classified and 450 part-time staff in its construction development program, field operations, and administrative functions, and will consolidate 15 residency offices and 36 equipment repair facilities around the Commonwealth in the next 18 months.

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The third part of the Blueprint focuses on reductions in VDOT programs and services. These include reducing motorist amenities and maintenance contracts for services not affecting driver safety. These proposals include:

- Reducing Rest Areas and Welcome Centers
- Reducing Ferry Services
- Reducing Safety Service Patrols
- Reducing Interstate Maintenance Services
- Reducing Vegetation Management

Public meetings will be held in every district to share the proposed changes with the public and gather input. Meetings for the Hampton Roads District are scheduled as follows and both meetings will begin at 6:00 PM.

March 16, 2009
Willoughby Elementary School
9500 4th View Street
Norfolk, VA 23503

March 17, 2009
(Jamestown-Scotland Ferry-focused meeting)
Luther Porter Jackson Middle School
4255 New Design Road
Dendron, VA 23839

Citizens may also submit comments via e-mail to vdotinfo@vdot.virginia.gov by April 15, 2009. I invite you to participate in the most convenient meeting for your area. Should you have any specific questions regarding how our service or organizational reductions may impact your locality, please do not hesitate contact me at (757) 925-2511.

For more information about proposed service impacts or changes to VDOT operations, visit http://www.virginiadot.org/news/blueprint_meetings.asp

Sincerely,



Dennis W. Heuer, P.E.
District Administrator