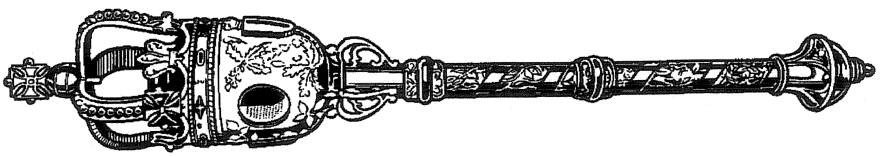
Report of the House Appropriations Subcommittee

on

Transportation



House Bill 1500

February 6, 2011

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
on
TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

While representing only a very small portion of the general fund budget, again this year transportation has been at the forefront of committee deliberations. I want to thank you for the leadership you have provided and congratulate you for ensuring that a broad-based transportation package was thoroughly vetted and adopted by this committee. Our strong commitment to investments in core infrastructure across the Commonwealth – both highway and transit - is evidenced both in the budget and other legislation this committee has adopted this Session.

Mr. Chairman, the Subcommittee recommendations for transportation commit $400.0 million to capitalize the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank approved as part of House Bill 2527. This includes $150.0 million from fiscal year 2010 excess general fund revenues as well as $250 million of nongeneral funds identified in the comprehensive audit of VDOT undertaken this past fall. Also related to House Bill 2527 is language increasing the cap on the existing VDOT revenue sharing program from $50.0 million to $200.0 million each year. For decades this program has successfully leveraged available transportation funds by matching local contributions for projects with a dollar for dollar match from Commonwealth Transportation Funds.

In addition, the amendments to Chapter 874 appropriate an additional $512.8 million of Commonwealth Transportation Fund revenues. These amounts reflect the improvement we are beginning to see in our economy. Instead of reductions in VDOT funding as we saw during the recent recession, VDOT ended fiscal year 2010 ahead of the forecast, and as the amendments reflect, transportation revenues are anticipated to grow over the next two years.

Finally Mr. Chairman, and of personal interest to me, the amendments includes the transfer of the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to the Department of Aviation. This shift reflects the joint goals of these entities and the growing linkage between aviation and space flight as it enters its commercial phase. We have a priceless resource at Wallops Island and it is my hope that this merger will provide the necessary ongoing funding stream to ensure its success.

The details of the Subcommittee's report are contained in the attachments. Committee staff will review the report and the attached listing of our recommendations at this time, and I hope it will be the Committee's pleasure to adopt the report.

Respectfully Submitted by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation:

Joe T. May, Chairman

Robert Tata

Beverly J. Sherwood

John M. O'Bannon, III

L. Scott Lingamfelter

James M. Scott

Algie T. Howell, Jr.

Budget Amendment Recommendations

HB 1500 Amendment	2010-12 BIENNIAL TOTAL General Fund	NGF	FTE
Transportation			
Department of Aviation			
Transfer VCSFA from VEDP to DOAV	Language		
Department of Rail and Public Transporation			
Technical - Authorize DRPT to Pay METRO	Language		
Transfer Excess Paratransit Amounts to Transit Formula	Language		
Direct one VA WMATA member to be State Official	Language		
Fund Rail Access Project for Fort Lee BRAC Expansion	Language		
Limit Mass Transit Fund Use to Code-authorized Uses	Language		
Department of Transportation			
Revenue Sharing Program Language to Reflect HB 2527	Language		
Virginia Port Authority			
Authorize Use of Bonds for Newport News Marine Terminal	Language		
Reduce Bond Authority to Reflect Current Needs	Language		

Transportation Subcommittee Item 437 #1h

Transportation
Department Of Aviation Language

Language:
Page 379, after line 11, insert:
"E.1. Out of the amounts included in this item $1,379,095 the second year shall be provided to the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority.

2. The Department of Aviation, in its role supporting the Virginia Aerospace Advisory Council, shall take the necessary steps to develop and publish a Virginia Strategic Plan for Aerospace. The plan shall be prepared for the Virginia Aerospace Advisory Council and delivered to its Chairman by December 1, 2011.

3. In support of the Virginia Strategic Plan for Aerospace, the Department will also include the aerospace industry in its competitive analysis of the aviation industry. The Virginia Aviation and Aerospace Industry Competitive Analysis will compare the Commonwealth's competitive standing for these two industry sectors within the region and nationally."

Explanation:
(This amendment transfers the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority's pass-through grant funding from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to the Virginia Department of Aviation to reflect the joint goals of these entities and the linkage between general aviation and commercial space flight. A companion amendment to Item 114 eliminates the funding in the VEDP.)

Transportation Subcommittee Item 447 #1h

Transportation
Department Of Rail And Public Transportation Language

Language:
Page 383, line 33, strike "Rail".
Page 383, line 34, after "Virginia." insert:
"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds allocated to Metro under this program may be disbursed by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation

directly to Metro or to any other transportation entity that has an agreement to provide funding to Metro as deemed appropriate by the Department."

Explanation:

(This amendment authorizes the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to make payments directly to the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority or other eligible entities.)

Transportation Subcommittee — Item 447 #2h

Transportation

Department Of Rail And Public Transportation — Language

Language:

Page 383, after line 39, insert:

"E. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund shall only be used for public transportation purposes as outlined in § 58.1-638.4, subparagraphs b through g, or in § 58.1-638.5."

Explanation:

(This amendment specifies that no Commonwealth Mass Transit Funds may be used for any purpose not included in the uses of those funds as Codified.)

Transportation Subcommittee — Item 447 #3h

Transportation

Department Of Rail And Public Transportation — Language

Language:

Page 383, line 15, strike the second "$2,500,000" and insert "$1,500,000".

Explanation:

(This amendment reduces public transportation funding that is set aside for paratransit capital projects to allow for the flow-through of these funds in the transit formula to all transit properties across the state. Requests for grants from this program have been under-subscribed and the funds can be put to immediate use for transit formula assistance.)

Amendments to House Bill 1500, as Introduced

Transportation Subcommittee — Item 447 #4h

Transportation
Department Of Rail And Public Transportation — Language

Language:
Page 383, line 33, strike "Rail".
Page 383, line 34, after "Virginia." insert:
"In appointing the Virginia members of the board of directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission shall include the Secretary of Transportation or his designee as a principal member on the WMATA board of directors."

Explanation:
(This amendment requires the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission to appoint the Secretary of Transportation or his designee to the Board of Directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.)

Transportation Subcommittee — Item 448 #1h

Transportation
Department Of Rail And Public Transportation — Language

Language:
Page 384, after line 19, insert:
"F. Of the funds available in the second year for Rail Industrial Access pursuant to § 33.1-221.1:1, Code of Virginia, up to $325,000 in the second year is hereby authorized for the development of rail access in Caroline County to serve the Army special passenger troop train shuttle operation between Fort Lee and Fort A.P. Hill. In the allocation of funds for this project by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the requirements of § 33.1-221.1:1, Code of Virginia, with the exception of § 33.1-221.1:1F., are waived. The provisions of this paragraph shall take effect only if the U.S. Army enters into a service agreement with Amtrak and the serving railroad."

Explanation:
(This amendment directs up to $325,000 of the existing rail access funds to be used to develop rail access at Fort A.P. Hill to allow for train operations to move troops between Fort Lee and Fort A.P. Hill as long as the Army is successful in

entering into an agreement with Amtrak and CSX.)

Transportation Subcommittee Item 452 #1h

Transportation
Department Of Transportation Language

Language:
Page 386, line 28, strike "$50,000,000" and insert:
"an amount determined by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, not less than $15,000,000 and not to exceed $200,000,000."
Page 386, line 29, strike "§".

Explanation:
(This amendment corrects the reference to the funding level of the VDOT revenue sharing program to reflect changes to the program size adopted pursuant to House Bill 2527 of the 2011 Session of the General Assembly.)

Transportation Subcommittee Item 462 #1h

Transportation
Virginia Port Authority Language

Language:
Page 395, line 50, after "407-17513." insert:
"Such bonds may also be used for the purpose of constructing warehouses at the Newport News Marine Terminal."

Explanation:
(This amendment authorizes the Virginia Port Authority to use proceeds from the planned July 2011 issuance of Commonwealth Port Fund bonds for the construction of warehouses at the Newport News Marine Terminal.)

Transportation Subcommittee Item 462 #2h

Transportation
Virginia Port Authority Language

Language:

Amendments to House Bill 1500, as Introduced

Page 395, line 49, strike "$155,000,000" and insert "$125,000,000".

Explanation:

(This amendment reduces the authority provided in House Bill 1500 to issue up to $155.0 million in Virginia Port Authority bonds to $125.0 million based on reported reduced issuance needs of the Authority in light of the new capacity arising from the purchase of the APM Terminal in Portsmouth.)