



News Release

Contacts:

Lon Anderson
AAA Mid-Atlantic
Office: (202) 478-9528
Cell: (703) 980-8868

Georjeane Blumling
AAA Tidewater
Office: (757) 233-3825
Cell: (757) 236-5933

Tony Howard
Fairfax County
Chamber of Commerce
Office: (703) 749-0400
Cell: (703) 470-0792

Ira Agricola
Hampton Roads
Chamber of Commerce
Office: (757) 664-2570
Cell: (757) 470-6361

Jeffrey Southard
Virginians For
Better Transportation
Office: (804) 330-3312
Cell: (804) 402-2220

Bob Chase
Northern Virginia
Transportation Alliance
Office: (703) 883-1830
Cell: (571) 215-6046

Nancy Reed
Greater Washington
Board of Trade
Office: (202) 857-5962
Cell: (571) 235-4624

Local AAA Contact: Martha Mitchell – Office: (804) 323-6510; Cell: (804) 543-7190

GROUPS URGE LEGISLATURE TO PASS TRANSPORTATION BUDGET NOW

Names Critical Projects Around The State That Will Be In Jeopardy

RICHMOND (April 11, 2006) - “The need is urgent and the time is now to pass a transportation budget.” That’s the critical message that a diverse group of organizations came together to deliver to the Virginia Legislature this afternoon in a press conference at the State Capitol.

“Transportation funding is needed immediately, and isolating the transportation budget and postponing action on it will only exacerbate this situation and have a severe impact on transportation projects around the state,” declared Lon Anderson, AAA Mid-Atlantic Director of Public and Government Affairs, speaking on behalf of the coalition.

This strong sentiment was shared by all of the groups present at the press conference including: the AAA Clubs of Virginia; the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, Virginians for Better Transportation, Virginians for High Speed Rail and the Virginia Transit Association.

“We have a transportation crisis in the Commonwealth. This crisis has been clearly recognized by Governor Tim Kaine and by the Legislature in its deliberations,” the coalition spokesman stated.

“But what has not been recognized to date and what we want to emphasize today are the very severe consequences of delaying passage of the transportation budget,” according to the coalition. “There are projects around the state that are dependent upon immediate enactment of the Commonwealth’s transportation budget. With any substantial funding delay, these critical projects are put in jeopardy.”

- more -

“These are projects that either must shortly be certified to the Federal Highway Administration to be eligible for federal funds, or will simply lack funding when the new fiscal year takes effect July 1, 2006. In either case, impacted projects will be delayed, in some instances, for years,” the coalition noted.

A sampling of the projects and the impacts on them from around the state that will be in jeopardy of being stopped or considerably delayed include:

- **Route 164 Rail Relocation – Portsmouth**
- **I-264/64 Interchange – Norfolk / Virginia Beach**
- **Route 58 – Stuart to Hillsville**
- **Route 17 widening - Stafford County**
- **Route 15 widening - Culpeper County**
- **Route 229 widening - Culpeper District**
- **Route 33 widening - Hanover County**
- **Barretts Ferry Bridge funding - Richmond**
- **Huguenot Bridge - Richmond**
- **Route 15 - Prince Edward County**
- **Route 29 from Capital Beltway to Merrilee Drive - Fairfax County**
- **Route 7 widening - Reston Parkway area**
- **Battlefield Parkway - Leesburg**
- **Route 28 - the four interchanges in Fairfax County**
- **I-66 at Gainesville**
- **Route 220 in Botetout County**
- **Route 460 reconstruction - Bedford**
- **Route 130 bridge replacement - Rockbridge County**
- **Warwick Boulevard - Newport News**
- **Jefferson Avenue - Newport News**
- **Intermodal Connector construction - Norfolk**
- **The Steel Bridge on Route 17 - Chesapeake**

“This list of projects from the six-year plan was provided to us--at our request--by the Virginia Department of Transportation. VDOT noted that the list is by no means final or complete but is only a sampling of the likely impacts of failing to act now on the transportation budget,” the coalition explained. “In fact, the actual damage from the failure to pass a transportation budget promptly will likely be far worse,” members of the coalition warned.

“With so many critical projects around the state in jeopardy, we appeal to members of the Legislature to demonstrate the highest form of statesmanship and come together to promptly approve a transportation budget that is appropriately funded by new, stable, and dedicated funding sources,” added the coalition.

AAA Mid-Atlantic serves 786,000 members in the Commonwealth of Virginia and a total of 3.6 million members in Washington, DC; Maryland; Virginia; Delaware; Pennsylvania; and New Jersey combined. It provides a wide range of automotive, personal insurance, travel, and financial services through its 50-plus retail branches, regional operations centers, and the Internet. For more information on AAA Mid-Atlantic, please visit our web site at www.aaamidatlantic.com.