

SUPPORT SJ260

Topic: JLARC study of VDOT maintenance funding and practices

Bill Patron: Senator Danica Roem

OVERVIEW:

Directs JLARC to comprehensively study and report on VDOT's funding resources, allocation policies, and practices for maintaining Virginia's surface transportation infrastructure, both within the VDOT system and for the urban localities that receive highway maintenance payments from VDOT.

REASONS TO SUPPORT SJ 260:

- Prioritizing the adequate maintenance of existing highway assets over new construction projects is a well-established best practice to enhance traveler safety and comfort, avoid travel disruptions and delays, maximize asset life, and minimize lifecycle costs.
- Since JLARC's 2002 report on this topic, Virginia's highway, bridge, and park-and-ride assets have grown substantially, and its active transportation and transit-rider assets have become increasingly prominent, especially in urban and suburban localities.
- Due to cost inflation and the additional assets now being generated by the three regional transportation authorities, VDOT's current maintenance spending and allocations may be insufficient to keep certain Virginia transportation assets in suitable repair.
- The maintenance needs of VDOT's diverse active mobility assets would be calculated, including for periodic pavement condition assessments, to facilitate preventive maintenance, resurfacing, or replacement, as appropriate, on a timely basis.
- Highway maintenance allocations to the VDOT districts and to non-VDOT localities would be evaluated to estimate the annual maintenance payments needed to suitably maintain all street and highway assets in VDOT's statewide inventory and to ensure that maintenance funding constraints do not impede life-saving traffic control devices.
- The study would also explore options, including partnerships, for more proactive year-round and winter maintenance of VDOT paths, sidewalks, and transit-rider amenities.

Virginia Bicycling Federation
Brantley Tyndall, President
president@vabike.org
804-625-8126



Virginia Conservation Network
Fatima Kamara, Land Use & Transportation
Campaign & Policy Manager
fatima@vcnva.org
Fatima: (757) 309-6647

This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.