

# A Cooperative Agreement Between The VDOT Research Library and The National Transportation Library

October 14, 2009, CTB Workshop Gary Allen, Ph.D., Chief of Technology



# What We Propose to Do...

Enter into a cooperative agreement (a limited license) with the National Transportation Library/RITA.

Archive copies of 2,000 VTRC reports digitized by the VDOT Research Library on NTL servers.

Reports will be added to the NTL digital archive for preservation, and links will be added to the TRIS Online database but those documents will continue to appear on VTRC and VDOT web sites.

License allows NTL to disseminate and preserve copies of the reports



# **Background Details**

#### **VDOT's Library Has Now Digitized All VTRC Reports**

- 2,000 reports (200,000 pages) of high-quality pdf files created in-house over a 2-year period, optimized for fast Web download, assigned metadata to make searchable, and made accessible on VTRC's Web site.
- Ultimately will include all VTRC reports 1960-present, most of which were never available to the public before and difficult for even VDOT employees to find.
- Ensures VDOT employees, other researchers and Virginia citizens timely access to VTRC research.

# Online Content Is Easily Lost

DOT

Systems Rely On URLs, But What If Files Move?

- In today's fast-paced business world files are moved, servers are renamed, URLs break, and all too often documents simply disappear due to accidents that could be avoided.
- To keep research accessible, scanning print copies is not enough. Digitized files must be stored in a secure long-term archive to ensure access and preservation.

# "Off Site" Storage Is a Smart Move

# LOCKSS: Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe

DOT

- LOCKSS is a model for libraries to easily and inexpensively collect and preserve digital copies intellectual content they own.
- Core Tenant: Digitize important documents and store them in secure locations.
- Redundancy is OK: Multiple access points increases use and decreases risks.

#### VDOT

# Why Should We Do This?

#### It Is Not Required, But It Is a Wise Thing to Do:

- This simple agreement can help ensure that research produced with taxpayer money is freely accessible online.
- More importantly, it expands access to VTRC reports for other researchers, which can accelerate research, discovery and innovation.
- There is no cost and low risk for VDOT.

VDOT

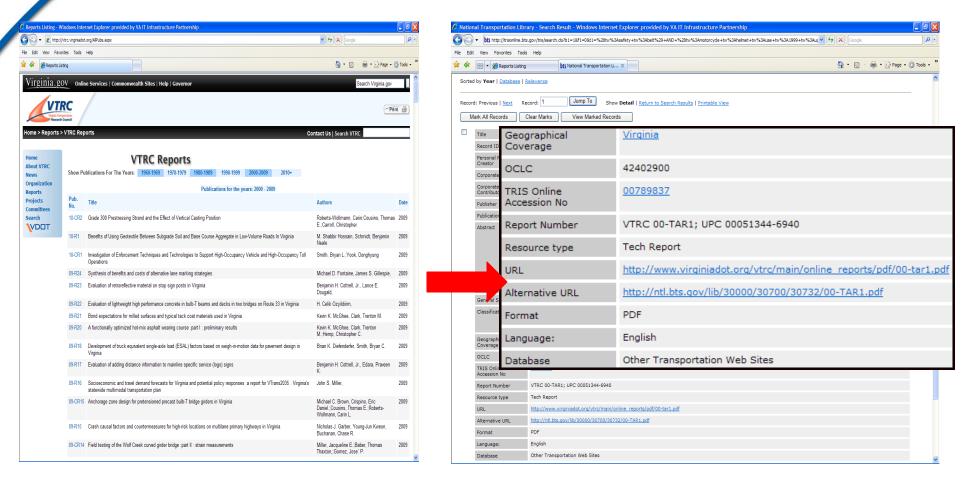
# Why Involve the CTB?

Required by the Code of Virginia § 33.1-12 (5)

 Because the agreement is between VDOT and a division of the U.S. Department of Transportation, it must be approved by the CTB before it can be executed.



#### Sample Access: VTRC and NTL Systems



Same document, two server locations...

Primary link: VTRC site, NTL archives a "backup"



# Result, If Approved

#### The Agreement Takes Effect When Signed

- Commissioner Ekern and a representative from NTL/RITA can execute the agreement by signing it.
- The VDOT Library will immediately forward the digital files to the NTL, which will begin uploading them to their servers and adding "new" URLs to TRIS Online records.



#### Is There a Down Side?

#### Risks are Low and Potential Rewards Are High

- Public access to taxpayer-funded research.
- Monetary cost to VDOT is zero.
- No Legal risk to VDOT.
- Timing favors open access/transparency.
- This could become a national model for all state DOT research reports.



#### This is Not a New Idea

"...let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident."

-Thomas Jefferson, February 18, 1791