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What is the VSTP?

Is the future ready for us? In 2035, will we be able to spend more time with our families and less time in traffic? Will our current infrastructure be safe for us to drive on? The 2035 Virginia Surface Transportation Plan (VSTP) is an integrated multimodal plan that will promote the effective and sustainable planning of the Commonwealth's transportation future. The VSTP builds on the established priorities of VTrans and provides proactive forward-thinking recommendations for highway, transit, rail, and freight modes, as well as policy-level recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian modes.

The VSTP will help identify projects for inclusion in the Six-Year Improvement Program, a document approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board allocating funds for transportation projects.

What are the issues?

Between 2010 and 2035, Virginia's population will grow by about one third, the population of persons age 65+ will double, and employment will grow by about one half. This growth in population and employment will increase travel and congestion on the current transportation system, and drive demand for more accessible transportation choices.

Daily vehicle miles traveled (DVM) has steadily outpaced the construction of new roads since 1980 and will continue to grow by 55% in the next 25 years, mostly concentrated in the largest urban areas of the state. Current and projected transportation demand is too great for investments to be focused solely on building and widening roads. Virginia's transportation system must focus on efficient and coordinated ways to move people and goods. Investment decisions must be made with regard to reducing congestion, protecting the environment and preserving

What are the needs?

Virginia must meet the mobility and accessibility needs of its citizens to maintain its status as one of the best places to live and do business. Virginians, especially the younger generations, desire to have multiple choices for how to travel, with a growing preference toward transit and non-motorized transportation options. Utilizing railroads for passenger and freight movement and promoting non-motorized transportation options can shift demand from highways to other forms of travel while reducing congestion.

The VSTP identifies a combination of transportation solutions needed to meet Virginia's future transportation needs including, but not limited to: highway capacity improvements for vehicles; rail improvements for moving people and freight; providing mobility options with increasing transit assets; maintaining existing transit assets in a state of good repair; transportation demand management strategies; and intelligent transportation system technology to improve mobility and access for all travelers. Needs were identified based on performance measures including, but not limited to: congestion, safety and crashes, pavement condition, structure condition, freight movement, population density, transit state of good repair, and transit accessibility.

Virginia must focus on strategies that promote the efficient movement of people and goods to optimize its transportation investments. Promoting strategies for higher-occupancy travel within the existing right-of-way, such as vanpools, transit and bus rapid transit, and High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes will decrease congestion, improve travel times, and allow the current roadway system to accommodate more trips without consuming more land.

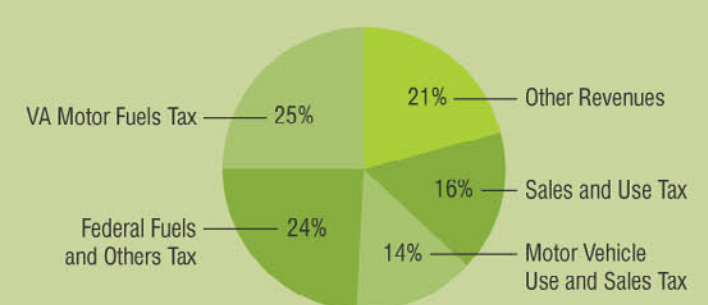
Where do we go from here?

On this map you will find transportation recommendations that address the needs of a mobile public and promote economic growth throughout the Commonwealth.

Maximizing the ability of Virginia's existing transportation system is especially critical given the limit of available funds. In the near future, Virginia's transportation funding will shift to focus on maintaining assets, responding to emergencies and mitigating congestion. Funding for new construction projects will continue to diminish. The maintenance of existing transportation assets to ensure the safety of the public will remain the first priority.

The VSTP will be used as a guiding document that identifies multimodal solutions for future transportation deficiencies. As Virginia seeks to address specific transportation problems, the recommendations identified in the VSTP offer a range of solutions for consideration. In addition, the performance measures identified will provide decision-makers with an assessment of potential impacts of transportation improvements. As the VSTP is updated over the next 5 years, you will see even greater integration of multimodal planning in keeping with Virginia's policy guidance.

Where do our transportation funds come from?



VTrans2035 Goals

VTrans2035 is Virginia's multimodal long-range transportation plan. Led by the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, it is a policy document that frames the vision for the future and the critical steps to make that vision a reality. The goals of VTrans2035 set the foundation for the future of transportation in the Commonwealth. It is these goals that guide and support the recommendations identified in the Virginia Surface Transportation Plan.

- Safety and Security** – provide a safe and secure transportation system.
- System Maintenance and Preservation** – preserve and maintain the condition of the existing transportation system.
- Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility** – facilitate the easy movement of people and goods, improve interconnectivity of regions and activity centers, and provide access to different modes of transportation.
- Environmental Stewardship** – protect the environment and improve the quality of life for Virginians.
- Economic Vitality** – provide a transportation system that supports economic prosperity.
- Coordination of Transportation and Land Use** – facilitate the effective coordination of transportation and land use to promote livable communities.
- Program Delivery** – achieve excellence in the execution of programs and delivery of services.

Legend

Projected Population Change and Transit Service Improvements

- 0-12% Growth: Introduce demand-response service; Increase coordinated human services transit.
- 12-25% Growth: Increase demand-response service; Expand fixed-route coverage; Implement transportation demand management.
- 25-50% Growth: Enhance fixed-route coverage; Implement transportation demand management.
- 50-80% Growth: Implement major capacity investments; Focus expansion of fixed-route coverage; Enhance transportation demand management.

Public Transportation & Freight

- County: Localties currently without transit service that have characteristics to support improved service levels.
- City/Town: Localties currently without transit service that have characteristics to support improved service levels.
- Improvements in area with existing fixed-route service.
- Multimodal Improvement.
- Intracity Rail Improvement.
- Maintenance of Existing Railway.
- High Speed Rail Improvement.
- Intercity Passenger & Freight Rail Improvement.

Highways

- Improvement: New Alignment, Park&Ride Improvement, Maintenance of Existing Highway.
- Spot Improvement.

All 67 transit systems and 49 human services transportation agencies in Virginia have recommendations in the VSTP, including capacity expansion, ITS deployment, and TDM strategies. In addition to introducing new service where transit service does not yet exist.

Highway recommendations for the VSTP focus on the Statewide Mobility System (SMS). Although the SMS is comprised of just 8 percent of Virginia's highway miles, it accounts for 66% of all vehicle miles traveled on the Commonwealth's highway system.



How do we travel?

Throughout history, transportation has evolved with technological advances to provide faster, more convenient modes of travel. As Virginia continues to grow, we must find new and improved ways to move people and goods easily, efficiently and effectively, providing safe and reliable access to jobs, schools, homes, recreational destinations and community areas.

Bicycle/Pedestrian

Walking and bicycling are the simplest, most inexpensive and environmentally conscious forms of transportation, requiring no license and no fare card. These non-motorized modes of transportation provide the essential supporting infrastructure for transit. Safety and accessibility are the critical issues for bicyclists and pedestrians, especially for those who are disabled or elderly.

Passenger Vehicles

A vast majority of Virginians travel by personal automobile, making this the most common and convenient form of transportation. Meeting at park & ride lots to form carpools and vanpools allows commuters to share transportation expenses, help minimize congestion, and experience faster commutes on HOV facilities.

Transit

Virginians who cannot or choose not to travel by personal vehicle rely on transit services for local and long distance transportation. Younger generations desire alternatives to driving cars, with a preference for transit and non-motorized transportation. Urban areas like Northern Virginia, Richmond and Hampton Roads depend on transit to manage congestion. Increasingly, Virginia's growing elderly population uses demand response transit to retain mobility and independence. Transit increases economic development potential.

Passenger Rail

Passenger rail transportation plays an important role in Virginia's evolving transportation network in managing highway congestion and pollution by diverting people from cars to passenger rail. Rail service provides connectivity between Virginia cities as well as other states. The future of passenger rail in Virginia includes high-speed rail options that will provide improved connectivity and accessibility across the Commonwealth and throughout the eastern seaboard.

Freight

Virginia's economic vitality depends on its ability to move goods efficiently and reliably. The growing demand on the state's already congested freight network could jeopardize the Commonwealth's ability to maintain a successful business environment.

Where do these recommendations come from?

Making travel more efficient

Operations/ITS

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) is the application of advanced technologies for both highway and public transportation modes aimed at optimizing the performance of the surface transportation system. ITS includes a wide range of advanced communications and electronic technologies such as GPS transponders on transit vehicles, credit card style fare cards and "countdown" signals at rail stations for public transportation. For highways, existing ITS technology includes highway camera, variable speed signs, information systems like 511, and dynamic messaging signs. In the future, intelligent technology will deliver transformational safety, mobility and environmental improvements using wireless communications between drivers, vehicles and transportation infrastructure.

