



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Commonwealth Transportation Board*

Pierce R. Homer  
Chairman

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*Agenda Item # New Business*

### **RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**March 19, 2009**

#### **MOTION**

**Made By: Dr. Davis Seconded By: Mr. Bowie Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously**

**Title: Request that the Federal Highway Administration Allow Commercialization of  
Virginia's Interstate Rest Areas**

**WHEREAS**, 23 USC § 111 provides that states "will not permit automotive service stations or other commercial establishments for serving motor vehicle users to be constructed or located on the rights-of-way of the Interstate System;" and

**WHEREAS**, 23 CFR § 752.5 (g) prohibits the public from being charged "for goods and services at safety rest areas, except for telephone and articles dispensed from vending machines;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia is experiencing a shortfall in revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has developed a three-part comprehensive plan called the "Blueprint for the Future" (Blueprint); and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the Blueprint, VDOT adjusted its programs by reducing the agency's Six-Year Improvement Plan by \$2,000,000,000 and delaying or eliminating more than 800 projects in order to continue to provide investments and services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blueprint will reduce VDOT's overall staffing to 7,500 full-time employees by July 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blueprint further proposes to reduce VDOT's services in order to achieve an estimated overall annual reductions of \$50,000,000 by: reducing ferry services, reducing Safety Service Patrols, reducing the scope of interstate maintenance services contracts, reducing vegetation management, and reducing the number of rest areas and welcome centers; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal to close 25 interstate rest areas provides a potential program savings of \$12,000,000; and

**WHEREAS**, VDOT has received many suggestions from the public and elected officials to allow commercialization of the rest areas to preserve the aforementioned savings and also permit the interstate rest areas to remain open; and

**WHEREAS**, Title 23 of the United States Code and the Code of Federal Regulations, § 752.5 (23 CFR 752.5) limit the Commonwealth of Virginia's authority to act on the suggestions of its citizenry and elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (Board) that VDOT evaluate and implement a program of commercial service provision at the interstate rest areas in the Commonwealth.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board requests the Governor of Virginia to solicit the Virginia Congressional delegation to amend 23 USC § 111 so that VDOT can effectively achieve the Board's intent pertaining to commercialization of Virginia's interstate rest areas.

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