



# Designing Transportation Sustainability for Virginia

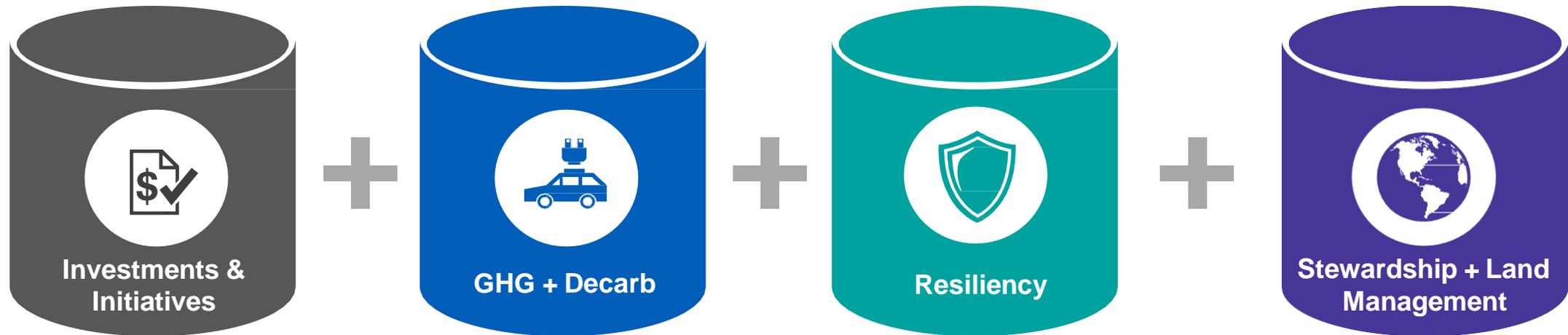


September 14, 2021

To achieve our common sustainability goals, we have developed the following mission for Transportation

**“To deliver an effective multi-modal transportation network that addresses the mobility needs of all Virginians in an environmentally responsible manner that supports the goals of the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy.”**

## Standing up an Office of Transportation Sustainability with four focus areas will allow us to continually emphasize the mission and make progress



Investments & initiatives that are Sustainability-related, along with ability to measure their impacts

Identify opportunities & associated initiatives to 'bend the curve' of Transportation-related emissions

Integrate climate change impacts into infrastructure design, enabling a proactive stance in asset planning

Maximize the beneficial outcomes and outputs of our existing assets

## Several principles will underpin the design of the Office of Transportation Sustainability

### Key Principles



#### Institutionalized

Provides a strong foundation preventing material movement or change on the core tenets of Transportation Sustainability



#### Action-oriented

Allows for quick scoping, development, and delivery of initiatives related to Transportation Sustainability



#### Accountable

Provides both formal and informal means of ensuring delivery of Transportation Sustainability initiatives



#### Visible

Provides visibility & reach regarding the most critical areas of Transportation Sustainability



#### Connected

Fosters productive and meaningful interactions in and across agencies



#### Empowered

Creates tangible, distributed ownership around key aspects of Transportation Sustainability

# Secretariats' role in delivering the Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy



## Commonwealth Clean Energy Policy



## Initial scope for the Office of Transportation Sustainability

- 1 | Investments & Initiatives**  
Investments & initiatives that are Sustainability-related, along with ability to measure their impacts
- 2 | GHG & Decarbonization**  
Identify opportunities & associated initiatives to ‘bend the curve’ of Transportation-related emissions
- 3 | Resiliency**  
Integrate climate change impacts into infrastructure design, enabling a proactive stance in asset planning
- 4 | Stewardship & Land Management**  
Maximize the beneficial outcomes and outputs of our existing assets

## Virginia is already investing in carbon-reducing initiatives focused on Transportation sustainability across the Commonwealth

### Omnibus Transportation Bill

*Establishment of the Commonwealth Transportation Fund directed toward specific environmental sustainability initiatives; restructured fuel tax and other revenues to support carbon-reducing alternatives.*

### CTB Environmental Committee

*Body developing policy recommendations regarding GHG emissions analysis and assessing/optimizing Land Management strategies.*

### Transit Investments

*Increase of state funding for transit & operations by 50% per year; initial investments in bus electrification; establishment of the Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP) to increase connectivity & reduced- and free-fare programs.*

### I-81 Improvement Plan Funds

*Infrastructure improvements funded by raising diesel, road tax and regional motor fuel taxes for highway and multi-modal investments.*

### Multimodal Mobility in NOVA

*More than \$2b in multimodal investment in transit, rail, trails, park & rides, and technology.*

### MBUF Pilot

*Pilot program to understand drivers, concerns, adoption curve, and path forward for a mileage-based usage fee ('MBUF') program in the Commonwealth*

### WMATA Collaboration

*Ongoing partnership with DC & Maryland to contribute \$500m each year for state of good repair capital projects.*

### Transforming Rail

*Railway expansion and improvement for commuter, passenger, and freight rail operations*

### Integrated Express Lanes

*A more than 90-mile network of Express Lanes eliminates more than 112 million passenger miles and preventing 6,000+ metrics tons of greenhouse gas emissions*

## Investments & Initiatives | Focused on a balanced slate of environmental and Transportation-focused outcomes to promote positive impacts and return

### Progress to Date



### Plan Forward

- Identify key sustainability elements to deliver on Virginia's current & future needs
- Continue to utilize and refine key criteria & measures by which to prioritize potential investments
- Establish a formal impact review process (or modify existing processes to accommodate this review)

### Ideal Future State

*Provide guidance on the types of investments and initiatives that will deliver a multi-modal transportation network for all Virginians in an environmentally-responsible manner.*

## GHG + Decarbonization | Progress to Date

### EV Readiness

*Studies to determine the overall readiness of the Commonwealth for a shift to greater fleet mix of electric vehicles (Phase I complete; Phase II is currently being scoped)*

### Shift to Electric Transit

*Move to electric transit including zero-emissions buses in several areas of Virginia such as Alexandria, Blacksburg, and Hampton Roads.*

### Rail Industrial Access

*Increased focus on providing adequate rail industrial access to lower need for individual trucking & cargo logistics.*

### GHG Emissions Baseline

*Continued collaboration with DEQ on GHG emissions inventory for transportation, identifying sources and opportunities for mitigation.*

### I-95 Pilot Program

*Pilot underway to study a portion of the I-95 corridor to determine how best to evaluate GHG and climate change impacts during NEPA studies.*

### Offshore Wind

*Focus on large offshore wind assets to provide a cleaner grid that takes advantage of Virginia's natural energy production potential.*

### Green Operator Program

*A voluntary, public-private program to help drayage trucks in Virginia lower their contributions to air pollution.*

### Clean Cargo Handling

*Initiative to convert many cargo handling vehicles and equipment over to cleaner powertrains (e.g., electric or hybrid)*

### Sustainable Aviation Fuels

*Ability to utilize sustainable sources from feedstocks such as cooking oil and animal fats to lower overall emissions profile of aviation activities.*

## GHG + Decarbonization | A goal of reducing the carbon footprint of Virginia's transportation assets

### Progress to Date



#### GHG & Emissions Inventory

Continued collaboration with DEQ on GHG emissions inventory for transportation, identifying sources and opportunities for mitigation.



#### I-95 Pilot Program

Pilot underway to study a portion of the I-95 corridor to determine how best to evaluate GHG and climate change impacts during NEPA studies.

### Plan Forward

- Define strategic decarbonization goals and Virginia's most material issues in this space
- Establish inventory and align on GHG projections
- Identify gaps & opportunities to 'bend the curve'
- Develop decarbonization roadmap & implementation plan with selected opportunities

### Ideal Future State

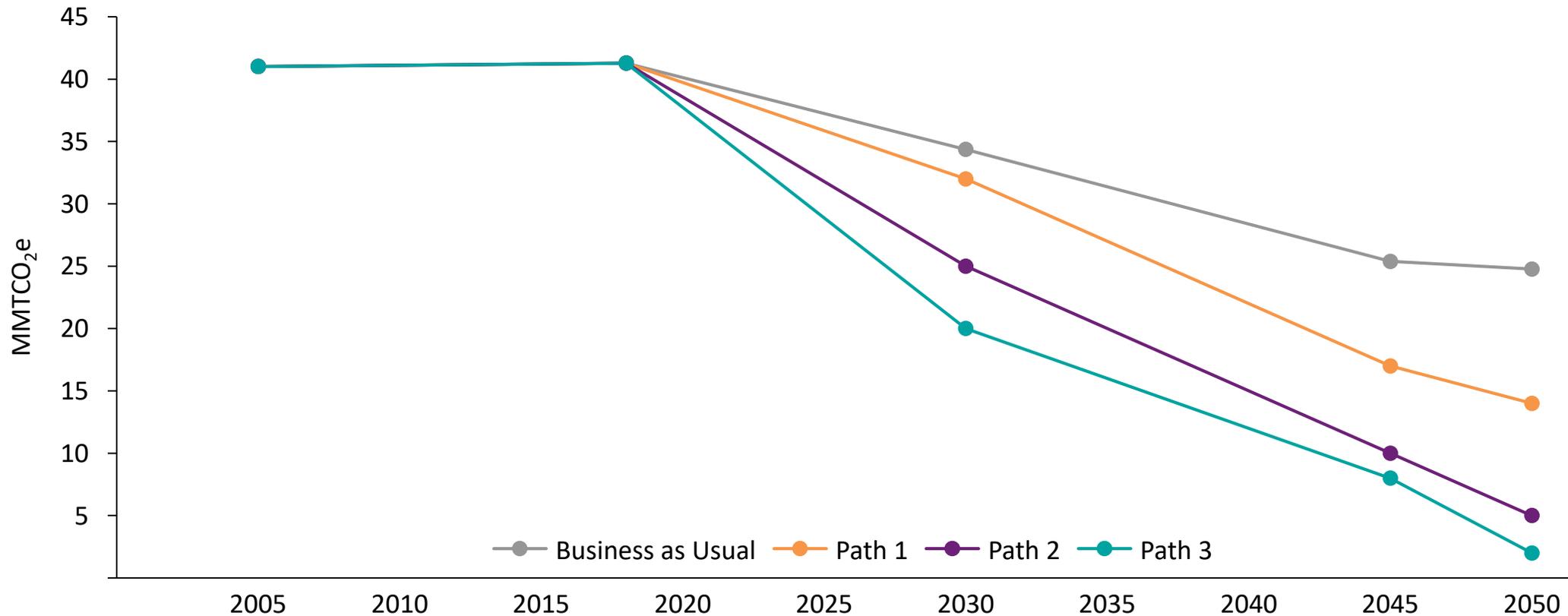
***Decarbonization activities and potential paths will be more transparent and better integrated into decision-making processes across agencies.***

***This will result in achieving the 2045 Net Zero Carbon Energy Economy goals set forth for Virginia.***

Scenario analysis provides an avenue to select from a wide variety of these potential paths, and help balance the various objectives that may – at times – be in conflict

Example | Multi-scenario analysis on decarbonization timeframes

ILLUSTRATIVE



## Resiliency | Progress to Date

### VIMS Study

*Study with Virginia's Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) to study potential impacts of sea level rise and other key climatic factors on infrastructure.*

### Precipitation Analysis

*Update of models related to rainfall intensity, duration, and frequency to better reflect recent trends in observed events.*

### Recycling Program

*Work to identify and expand opportunities for recycling or reuse of materials, whether related to construction or day-to-day maintenance efforts.*

### Construction Design Updates

*Update of construction designs to incorporate new and more environmentally-friendly methods to deliver the same overall outcome.*

### Coastal Resilience Master Plan

*Plan to increase ability to prepare for and adapt to localized flooding events, increase financing flexibility, and enhance agency coordination.*

### Climate Change Megatrends

*Ongoing research by VTrans into how shifts in climate will impact planning and development efforts for the Commonwealth over time.*

### Materials Research

*Research into specific materials (porous pavements, surface treatments, etc.) and the types of tradeoffs that they offer in terms of environmental benefits & performance*

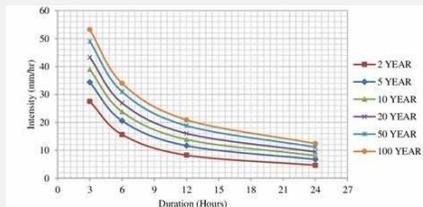
**Resiliency** | Resiliency – the capacity to respond and recover from disruption – will be supported by research such as VIMS, which provides insights into how to optimize infrastructure spend

## Progress to Date



### VIMS Recurrent Flooding Project

Project to capture management strategies for assets that have or will see substantial climate impacts; in addition, identify how to mitigate future use conflicts for Rare, Threatened or Endangered (RTE) species and their habitats.



### IDF Precipitation Study

Study to develop precipitation curves around Intensity, Duration, and Frequency (IDF) to better understand and predict behaviors and useful responses.

## Plan Forward

- Assess maturity of Virginia’s capabilities related to Resiliency
- Evaluate existing and need for future assessments to ensure data on relevant hazards is available
- Establish a risk-based, adaptive design approach to incorporate resilience into new construction projects
- Develop and finalize resiliency strategy, incorporating aspects of ROI and efficiency into performance

## Ideal Future State

***Virginia will be prepared to ‘bounce back’ from adverse events and leverage industry-leading data, information, and studies on resilience to catalyze its own innovation.***

## Stewardship + Land Management | Progress to Date

### Pollinator Habitats

*Development and maintenance of natural habitats along state-maintained roads and properties to encourage pollinator presence.*

### Monarch Conservation

*Formal conservation agreement with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to conserve this at-risk species; only 8 states are currently included.*

### Land Holdings Analysis

*Evaluation of existing land held by VDOT including land use, land cover, and other characteristics to determine possible enhanced use in the future.*

### Animal Passages/Crossings

*Continued development of dedicated animal passages and crossings to limit unintentional human-animal interactions with negative outcomes.*

### I-295 Reforestation

*Reforestation along the I-295 corridor in 5 key areas of right-of-way that reduces pollutants to surface water during runoff events.*

### ‘Lovers Not Litter’

*Program to encourage citizen commitments to reduce the amount of litter – and associated cleanup costs – on Virginia’s roadways.*

### LED Highway Lighting

*Increased focus on conversion to efficient LED lighting for key highway corridors.*

### Forced-air Composting

*New method of ensuring more sanitary roadside cleanup of animals.*

### Wetlands Preservation

*A suite of several programs designed to mitigate damage to Virginia’s wetlands and preserve critical wildlife and their habitats (e.g., oyster reefs)*

## Stewardship + Land Management | Land use & management promotes healthy environments while also maximizing beneficial outcomes for the Commonwealth

### Progress to Date



#### Land Holdings Analysis

Evaluation of existing land held by VDOT including land use, land cover, and other relevant characteristics



#### VDOT Pollinator Habitat Program

Creates natural areas of native plants along state-maintained roads and properties



#### I-295 Reforestation Project

Tree planting efforts in 5 areas of VDOT ROW to reduce pollutant runoff

### Plan Forward

- Diagnose Land Management current state
- Outline key levers or criteria to evaluate Land Management decision-making process
- Perform initial 'asset scan' to provide overview of potential land use options
- Determine how to integrate principles of Land Management into ongoing processes

### Ideal Future State

***Land Management will be an objective, actively-managed process that both improves the environment and could provide additional opportunities to expand other programs across Virginia.***

## Immediate Next Steps

- ❑ Outline organizational structure and develop operating model for establishing Office
- ❑ Continue building inventory of Transportation strategies & initiatives
- ❑ Develop estimates of costs, benefits & related impacts for each strategy
- ❑ Execute stakeholder outreach to understand existing + planned sustainability efforts:
  - *Continue individual outreach efforts*
  - *Grow employee awareness, engagement, and support for Sustainability*
  - *Launch public outreach and gather direct citizen input*