COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Commonwealth Transportation Board

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Agenda item # 3

RESOLUTION
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

October 13, 2026

MOTION

Made By: Mr. Fowlkes, **Seconded By:** Mr. Payne
Action: Motion Carried, Unanimously

Title: Airport Access Fund Policy (Revision)

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has, from time to time, amended Section 33.2-1509 of the *Code of Virginia*, relating to the funds for the construction or improvement of access roads to economic development sites and public-use airports within the counties, cities, and towns of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, these programs were established to help accelerate economic development opportunities and growth across the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, airport access funds granted to localities pursuant to Section 33.2-1509 of the *Code of Virginia* provide funding for projects that would otherwise not be competitive with other programs; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 the Commonwealth Transportation Board developed an Airport Access Policy to govern the use of these funds; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopted a revised Airport Access Policy to govern the use of these funds; and

WHEREAS, the existing policy governing the use of these funds in providing access to airports was adopted some years ago, and it is the sense of this Board that certain revisions and restatements of this policy to reflect current trends and goals are warranted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commonwealth Transportation Board hereby rescinds the Airport Access Policy adopted March 14, 2012 and adopts the following policy to govern the use of funds available for access to airports pursuant to Section 33.2-1509 of the *Code of Virginia*, as amended:

1. The program for implementation of this policy and the funding available for this program shall be designated respectively as the Airport Access Roads Program and Airport Access Funds.

2. The use of airport access funds shall be limited to assisting in the financing of adequate access to a licensed, public use airport. Termination of access to a licensed, public use airport shall be at the property line of the airport.

3. No cost incurred prior to this Board's approval of the allocation of airport access funds may be reimbursed by such funds. Airport access funds shall be authorized only upon confirmation that the licensed airport facility is already constructed or will be built under firm contract, or upon provision of acceptable surety in accordance with paragraph A of Section 33.2-1509 of the *Code of Virginia*, as amended.

4. Airport Access Funds shall be used only for the design and construction of the roadway, including preliminary environmental review and standard drainage and storm water facilities required solely by construction of the road. Airport access funds shall not be used for the acquisition of rights of way, the adjustment of utilities, or the attainment of necessary environmental permits.

5. Eligible items in the design and construction of an airport access road shall be limited to those essential for providing an adequate roadway facility to serve the anticipated traffic generated by the airport's operations with adherence to all appropriate CTB and state policies and standards. However, additional pavement width or other features may be eligible where necessary to qualify the road facility in a city or town for maintenance payments under Section 33.2-319, of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

6. The governing body of a city, county, or town in which the proposed airport access road is located shall serve as the applicant and submit a formal resolution to request airport access funds from this Board. A town whose streets are maintained under either Sections 33.2-339 or 33.2-340, *Code of Virginia*, shall file the application through the governing body of the county in which it is located. The resolution of request shall include commitments to provide for the rights of way, adjustment of utilities, and necessary environmental permits for the project from funds other than airport access funds allocated by this Board.

7. Not more than $1,550,000 ($1,250,000 unmatched and $300,000 matched dollar for dollar) of the airport access funds may be used in any fiscal year to provide access to any one airport. Local matching funds shall be provided from funds other than those administered by this Board.

8. It is the intent of this Board that airport access funds not be anticipated from year to year. Unused eligibility cannot be allowed to accumulate and be carried forward from one fiscal year to another.

9. Prior to the formal request for the use of airport access funds, the location for the new access road shall be submitted for approval by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

10. The Board will consult with and may rely on the recommendations of the Virginia Department of Aviation in determining the use of these airport access funds for a requested project.

11. Airport Access funds may be authorized only after all contingencies of this Board's allocation of funding to the project have been met for airport access.

12. The Commissioner of Highways is directed to establish administrative procedures to assure adherence to and compliance with the provisions of this policy and legislative directives.

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Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Decision Brief

Airport Access Fund Policy (2026 Revision)

Issue: The Airport Access Program provides funding for the construction or improvement of adequate access roads to licensed, public-use airports across the Commonwealth. Adequate access may require construction of new roadway segments or improvement of existing facilities as needed to serve anticipated airport-related traffic. The existing policy governing the Airport Access Funds was adopted in 1996, and revisions are warranted to align with current multimodal goals, trends in airport operations, and updates in state transportation planning priorities.

Facts: Section 33.2-1509 of the *Code of Virginia* provides funding to help localities build or improve roads that serve licensed, public-use airports.

VDOT reviewed the Airport Access Program and found that the current policy, last updated in 1996, no longer reflects today's costs or airport access needs. As a result, updates are needed to ensure the program allocates funds effectively and supports the full cost of delivering eligible airport access road projects.

Recommendations: VDOT recommends that the CTB adopt the proposed Airport Access Policy. The updated policy ensures that the use of Airport Access funds follows the criteria and restrictions established in Section 33.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia by clearly defining eligible project activities and the conditions under which funds may be authorized.

Action Required by the CTB: A majority vote of the CTB is required to adopt the revised Airport Access Policy and establish updated guidelines governing the administration of Airport Access Funds.

Result, if Approved: The revised Airport Access Policy will take effect immediately after CTB approval and will govern the use of Airport Access Funds in accordance with Section 33.2-1509.

Options: Approve, Deny, or Defer

Public Comments/ Reaction: None