COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA

Office of the

SECRETARY *of* TRANSPORTATION

Update on the Governor's Climate Change Commission

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September 2008

dmvNow.com

Virginia Department of Aviation

DRPT

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

MVDB

Motor Vehicle Dealer Board

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Virginia Port Authority

VDOT

Virginia Department of Transportation

Update on the Governor's Climate Change Commission *

- **43-member Commission formed December 2007**
- **Comprised of representatives from the General Assembly, state government, local government and private sector**
- **Key goal - Identify actions needed to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions by 30% below business as usual levels by 2025 (equivalent to 2000 levels)**
- **Full Commission has met on seven occasions and heard testimony from numerous federal, state, local, private sector experts and the public**

*The findings/recommendations contained in this document result from the Commissions deliberations.

Update on the Governor's Climate Change Commission

- **Commission has developed preliminary findings/principles that include but not limited to:**
  - **Because the effects of climate change on Virginia are real, we cannot wait for the federal government to act; state actions can have a significant effect on global GHG levels**
  - **Sea level rise is a major concern for coastal Virginia**
  - **Climate change will have a significant impact on Virginia's ecosystems, possibly causing some species to become extinct.**
  - **Climate change has potential impacts on human health and quality of life, including more frequent hurricanes, water-borne diseases, etc.**

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Update on the Governor's Climate Change Commission

- **Commission's preliminary findings/principles cont'd**
  - **It is not possible to address the impacts of climate change without significant public and private investment**
  - **The three largest sources of GHG emissions in Virginia are electricity generation, transportation, and non-utility fuel used in industrial and commercial facilities**
  - **Energy efficiency and conservation provide the least costly energy resource options**
  - **Transportation GHG emissions will continue to grow over time; however, recently enacted CAFÉ standards and increased fuel costs can significantly reduce emissions that result from VMT**

Update on the Governor's Climate Change Commission

- **Commission has been divided into four workgroups,**
  - Electricity Generation/Other Stationary Sources
  - Adaptation/Sequestration
  - Built Environment
  - Transportation and Land-Use

- Interim Draft Report available:
  http://www.deq.state.va.us/info/climatechange.html

Transportation and Land Use Working Group

- Chaired by former Lt. Governor Don Byers
- Deputy Secretary Davis represents the Secretary
- Working Group is vetting initiatives to reduce transportation green house gas emissions through:
  - Improved fuel economy
  - Low carbon (alternative) fuels
  - Transportation and Land Use Efficiency Measures

Transportation and Land Use Working Group

Preliminary Recommendations

- **Improved Fuel Economy**
  - **Advocate the establishment of CAFE standards for heavy trucks**
  - **Set minimum standards for fleet mpg for all Commonwealth fleets**
  - **Create state tax incentives for the purchase of high mpg vehicles**
  - **Renew dormant "Cash-For-Clunker" program**
  - **Amend the current vehicle titling tax to weight the taxation based on fuel efficiency**
  - **Support Pay-As-You-Drive insurance**

Transportation and Land Use Working Group

Preliminary Recommendations

- **Low Carbon (alternative) Fuels**
  - **Establish a regional diesel biofuel standard**
  - **Support university research to describe the GHG impact of sugar-based ethanol, and of other biofuels**
  - **Allow VDOT rights-of-way to be used for solar and wind farm connections to the power grid**
  - **Make and market Virginia as "hybrid friendly"**

Transportation and Land Use Working Group

Preliminary Recommendations

- **Transportation and Land Use Efficiency Measures**
  - **Target available state funds towards compact, walkable, transit-oriented development areas**
  - **Increase funding for the Access Management Fund to preserve new transportation corridors and to retrofit existing corridors**
  - **Change the state transit funding formulas to include state funding for operations**
  - **Amend VDOT landscaping standards to minimize mowing and increase carbon retention**

Transportation and Land Use Working Group

Preliminary Recommendations

- **Transportation and Land Use Efficiency Measures Cont'd**
  - **Create new or added benefits for state workers who take transit, walk, or bike to work**
  - **Provide funding and technical assistance to local governments to amend zoning codes that currently establish excessive minimum parking space standards**
  - **Establish roundabouts as the default design new intersections and for intersection improvements**
  - **Increase State Police funding for more consistent enforcement of existing speed limits**

Transportation and Land Use Working Group
Preliminary Recommendations

- **Transportation and Land Use Efficiency Measures Cont'd**
  - **Expand the Virginia Rail Enhancement Fund, from $24 million to $200 million per year, to develop the potential for North-South freight rail (especially along the I-81 corridor)**
  - **Develop plans for a statewide bicycle network**
  - **Create Parking Pricing Research Fund, to stimulate the emerging strategies connected to parking pricing**
  - **Establish "tree banking" program to expand our carbon sinks**

Next Steps

- **September - Preliminary recommendations will be vetted by Working Groups, develop cost/ton of emissions**
- **October - Full Commission will meet to finalize findings and review Working Groups' recommendations**
- **November – Finalize recommendations**
- **December 2008 – Review and approve final report**