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3	FY2011-2016 Six-Year Improvement Program
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8	June 3, 2010
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15	PANEL MEMBERS
16	Sean T.Connaughton, Secretary of Transportation James L. Keen, CTB Member
17	James A. Davis, CTB Member Dana Martin, CTB Member
18	Mark J. Peake, CTB Member Jim D. Bowie, CTB Member
L9	Kevin Page, Chief of Rail Gregory Whirley, VDOT Commissioner
20	Garrett W. Moore, District Administrator - Staunton Richard L. Caywood, District Administrator - Salem
21	Ken Brittle, District Administrator - Bristol
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3	Delegate Morgan Griffith Delegate Anne Crockett Stark	12 16
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22	This Public Hearing was held at New Riv	7er
23	Community College, Dublin, Virginia, on the 3r	d day of
24	June 2010.	

1 MR. CONNAUGHTON: Good evening, 2 everyone. I'd like to welcome you to this 3 evening's final hearing on the state's six-year transportation improvement plan. 5 I am Sean Connaughton. I'm the 6 Secretary of Transportation for the 7 Commonwealth as well as chairman of the 8 Commonwealth Transportation Board. I'm going 9 to ask everyone to please stand and say the 10 Pledge of Allegiance. 11 12 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.) 13 14 MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much. 15 We have quite a few people up here on the 16 dais, and that's because this hearing 17 actually covers several of our transportation 18 districts. I'm going to ask if each of the 19 individuals up here on the dais will 20 introduce themselves, starting with Greg 21 Whirley. 22 MR. WHIRLEY: I'm Greg Whirley, Acting 23 Commissioner for VDOT.

MR. PAGE: I'm Kevin Page, Chief of

1	Rail for the Department of Rail and Public
2	Transportation.
3	MR. BOWIE: I'm Jim Bowie, member of
4	the Commonwealth Transportation Board from
5	Bristol Construction District.
6	MR. PEAKE: I'm Mark Peake, and I'm a
7	member of the Commonwealth Transportation
8	Board from the Lynchburg District.
9	MR. MARTIN: I'm Dana Martin
10	representing and welcoming you to the Salem
11	District.
12	MR. KEEN: I'm James Keen, Rural
13	At-Large representing the CTB.
14	MR. CAYWOOD: Richard Caywood, District
15	Administrator for the Salem District.
16	MR. BRITTLE: Ken Brittle, Acting
17	Administrator in Bristol.
18	MR. MOORE: Garrett Moore, Staunton
19	District Administrator.
20	MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you all for
21	being here. This is our final hearing. We
22	have held hearings now in Hampton Roads,
23	Northern Virginia, and Central Virginia in
24	Richmond. I'm going to ask we will start

with our elected officials, and first is

Senator Roscoe Reynolds.

MR. REYNOLDS: Mr. Secretary, Members of the Board, and VDOT, thank you very much for this opportunity to make a presentation to you tonight.

Let me start off by telling you how much I appreciate the fine work done by the employees. There's never an occasion that I contact the department asking for help in understanding matters or seeing things done that I don't get a very, very positive response. And I appreciate more than I can say the response that we get from VDOT and from the employees when we make inquiries.

I also want to thank you very much for the Liberty Street expansion that's taking place in Martinsville. That's a very important project to Martinsville and Henry County. I know that federal funds were basically involved in that, but I want to thank you very much for that.

I also want to thank you very much for your willingness in the department to work

with Martinsville Speedway with regards to getting folks in and out of the Speedway in a timely fashion.

That's very important, I think, to the Commonwealth and to the Martinsville-Henry County area. At least twice a year national attention focuses on Virginia and Martinsville-Henry County as a result of the events that take place at Martinsville Speedway.

I'm going to be asking you, of course, for any help that you can give in improving Route 58 between Hillsville and Stuart. Basically from I77 to the coast, the missing link of the four-laning of Route 58 is between the town of Hillsville and the town of Stuart.

That's an area that's been hit especially hard by the disappearance of textile, furniture, and tobacco jobs, and it continues.

As you are probably aware, about two weeks ago we received devastating news in Martinsville-Henry County that American of

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Martinsville was shutting down and losing better than 200 jobs followed very quickly by Stanley Furniture's announcement that they are going to send all their jobs offshore with in excess of 500 jobs disappearing before the end of the year.

There's no question that all across the area that I'm talking about from Hillsville to Martinsville and Danville the economy is suffering greatly.

If we could get Route 58 complete, it would improve the economic climate dramatically in Carroll County, Patrick County, Henry County, Martinsville, Pittsylvania County, and Danville.

The competitive world that exists today is that the quicker the manufacturer can get the product to the buyer, the more successful the business is going to be. And I have heard manufacturers in Danville talk about the fact that, because they have to travel up 29 and 81 to head west, that ends up pricing them out of the market.

If that missing link between Hillsville

The other possible benefit of the completion of the missing link between Hillsville and Stuart will be that it will take a tremendous amount of tractor trailer traffic off of 81.

Studies in the past that have been made indicate that a large percentage of the east traffic, that is, coming from the western part of Virginia headed towards the ports, uses 81 and 74 instead of the straight shot which would exist on Route 58 if that missing link were complete.

May I ask you to look at your map and look at Hillsville. I have talked with you about it before, but I need to tell you about this at least one more time and probably many more times in the future.

But if you will look at Hillsville and you look at the bypass around Hillsville that

and Stuart existed, it would make them more competitive and make them more successful in business because it would increase the rapidity with which they could get their goods to market.

is about to be completed, and thank you too for that project, you will notice just to the east of Hillsville on Route 221 Route 100 is a connecting link between Route 221 and Interstate 81.

Now, while it's not shown on the map, there's actually an extended -- Route 100 road continues south across Route 221 and actually connects then to Route 58 just about where the broken line is on the Hillsville bypass.

Now, what is going to happen, as soon as the Hillsville bypass is completed, you are going to see tractor trailer traffic that's on 77 get on the 58 bypass and then get on 100 and go to Route 81. If they do that, they miss all those terrible hills between Route 58 and Interstate 81.

If you haven't had the privilege of driving that, it's up and down, up and down.

I can tell you every time I make a right-hand turn from Route 58 to start up I81, you are taking your life into your own hands because that's at a V.

You start going straight uphill, and I'm not putting the angle off much when I hold my hand up like that. And that traffic that is coming off that mountain and starting up that mountain has got as much steam as they can trying to get up that mountain.

If we can get Route 100 so that it can handle that traffic, you would have the effect of taking off a tremendous amount of traffic where Route 100 connects onto Route 81 and also Route 177.

Let me just also mention how important I73 is. I understand that that's moving along slowly, but any help that you can give us in making I73 become a reality is going to make the economy in Southside Virginia much better than it presently is.

I hope that when construction on I73
will start that it can start in the Henry
County area near the intersection of Route 58
and I73's projected project to move in the
direction of the North Carolina line.
Economic development authorities tell us that
the minute that construction starts, the

economic climate in Henry County will improve dramatically.

I also want to thank -- today on the way over here, I was driving up Route 8.

It's been several years ago that you all did a lot of work on that mountain by daylighting curves and widening the road. Thank you so much for that. Every time I travel that road I'm so much appreciative of the work that you have done in there.

Route 8 between Floyd and Christiansburg is increasing dramatically. It's because many people in Floyd County are having to go to work — their work is taking place in Montgomery County. In the mornings and at night — if you are traveling Route 8 at night, there's a steady line of traffic, cars back to back to back headed south on Route 8 coming from Montgomery County.

The similar situation exists in the morning, and you had to make it even more difficult by Auburn Schools and the school complex that exists there on Route 8.

Thank you again for all that you do and anything that you can do to help the localities with regards to their needs.

Every locality that I represent is very concerned about the decreases that have taken place in funding for secondary routes.

I know that there are several bridge replacements that are on the drawing board from stimulus funds. Anything that can be done to move those along to get those projects complete and to provide the help to the localities, that will be greatly appreciated. And, again, thank you so much for what you do.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much. Delegate Morgan Griffith.

MR. GRIFFITH: Let me echo the senator's comments in saying thank you very much for being here. Thank you, Dana, for welcoming us to the Salem District. It's always good to have everybody in the neighborhood.

Let me also say that -- it was going to be my closing comments, but since they were

Roscoe's closing comments, I'll open with it.

And that is, I agree with him on 173. I

think it's extremely important for economic development as well as traffic flow as we work forward.

And, hopefully, the intermodal, which you all were very helpful on, in Elliston-Shawsville just outside of my district -- as we build I73 to its ultimate completion, I think it's extremely important that it's coming right past that intermodal site. I think it helps us on economic development.

And even though my constituents in the Eighth Legislative District, my current district, would probably prefer that the construction for I73 actually start just outside of Roanoke, I think that Senator Reynolds is correct that what we need to do is build the way between Martinsville and Roanoke -- North Carolina-Martinsville-Roanoke needs to be the first part of it that's built.

But I do think that Southside needs

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that road probably more for economic development than we do. We need a good path from the Roanoke Valley to the Martinsville-Henry County area. But if we start at that end, it does help them immediately, and the road will eventually get all the way up to Roanoke and then follow all the way to West Virginia.

I think it's extremely important. It's one of our long-term goals, and I appreciate all the work that you all have done on that already. I hope that I will be in a position in whatever capacity the voters may elect to put me in in the future to help move that project forward.

I would also like to say thank you and ask that you continue the good work that you all have done on 221 as that project moves forward in Roanoke County.

11/460 west of Salem in Roanoke County is also a project that we have been working on for many, many years. I think we have crossed the thirty-year mark now with various legislators asking for that. It is about to

happen. We are excited about it. It's going to be very important for traffic flow as we continue to improve I81.

I have always said, and some of you all have heard it, and I apologize for being a broken record, but you have to fix 11/460 west of Salem before you can do a lot on 81 because that two-lane stretch there jams the traffic up because people are trying to get off of 81 because of construction or an accident, and that area gets shut down in a bumper-to-bumper traffic situation that lasts for hours and goes for miles.

Once we have that fixed, I'm not going to say it will be perfect, but it certainly won't be a bottleneck and will make things a lot easier in that corridor between Christiansburg and Salem. So I greatly appreciate all the work that you have done on that.

And I guess I'll start and finish the same. I do believe long term -- I understand you need the funding so we can do it, but I do believe long term that the biggest project

we have on the table is I73. We need to work 1 2 on all of it, but particularly that section 3 between Roanoke and the North Carolina border 4 and Martinsville. 5 It not only improves the traffic 6 situation, but I think really makes a big 7 difference for Southside. It's not in any of 8 the districts I'm running in currently or 9 representing currently, but I think it's just 10 important for Virginia. Thank you very much. 11 Thank you very much. MR. CONNAUGHTON: 12 Now we'll have Anne Crockett Stark. 13 MS. STARK: We're so appreciative of 14 you coming to our area. Sean, good to see 15 you. 16 MR. CONNAUGHTON: Good to see you. 17 MS. STARK: I represent the Bristol and 18 Salem Districts, and I would like to thank 19 you for all the work that -- I know how much 20 work goes on nonstop. 21 I will say that I want to thank you for 22 Wolf Creek. We had some flooding up there 23 two months ago, and you did a nice job. 24 had some roads that literally went away,

looked like wilderness. We had water that stood in our roads, and one woman opened her mailbox to show mud this thick. So it got a little high.

VDOT came in there, and I want to thank VDOT for what they did over there for those citizens. Giles is a small county. It's one of the most beautiful counties in the state, and I appreciate the work you have done.

Secondary roads are always a problem throughout my five counties. They are rural counties, and we have -- the roads that are federally designated are in good shape, but the roads that lead to those often are dirt, and I continue to say we need help on those.

I would also like to say -- I would like to continue by saying that we still feel like in Pulaski County we need 99 widened to four lanes. And down in the Dublin area where the new Wal-Mart is, there is so much business in that area, and there's a lot of congestion in that area.

And I think at some point that we need to look not at the road, but at some of the

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-- where you go in and out, some of the entrance and exits and maybe looking at the whole configuration and seeing if there is some safety factors there that need to be looked at. I'm sure that Mr. Parker and Mr. Huber in Pulaski County can be more detailed with that.

I would also like to say that the potholes that have been repaired, some of them are like riding a bicycle on an accordion. I think it would be less wasteful if they were done well the first time and not have to go back and repeat some of them.

District between -- it's really rough coming out of Bluefield after the tunnel and again coming down that last mountain. As you come back into Bland, coming north to south is a really rough area. And also, again, between Rural Retreat and Marion and to Abingdon, there are some rough potholes. Been fixed but not well. I have to say that.

I did have a constituent come to me yesterday, and I went and looked at this

problem. Going up Old Baltimore Road coming from Route 11 where you can cross the bridge and get -- where it intersects with Route 11 and Kirby Road and Old Baltimore Road, there is a curve as you go up.

And we have trees like -- obviously, trees and squirrels -- growing out over it, and it makes it a safety hazard there.

That's a secondary problem, but I think that really needs looked at and, you know, just the trees cut back there.

And I could go on and on, but I think I won't, you know. I do appreciate being here, and I think most of the local government people will have more detail for you. But thank you for letting me speak and be with you tonight. Thank you.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you. Good seeing you. Delegate David Nutter.

MR. NUTTER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Thank you all for coming down here to the New River Valley. I have just a couple of items.

First of all, I want to thank you for being here today, but also a year ago you all

helped close a gap with some funding on the widening of Route 114 in the Town of Christiansburg. It was a small gap we had in the way of funding, but it helped in closing that project that was completed certainly on time and may have been slightly under budget, so I deeply appreciate that.

Route 114 pretty much bisects

Montgomery County between the Blacksburg and
Christiansburg side. It's a high-growth
corridor, a lot of development in that area.

It intersects with the New River Valley Mall
area and then comes over to a bridge that
I'll mention here shortly that cuts across to
Pulaski County.

I want to thank you. You all have kept the replacement bridge -- which, for those who don't know, was damaged I would say probably eleven, twelve years ago by a truck. So it's been closed, and we have been rerouting the traffic through that area across another bridge, but it's still not perfect.

It's also right out in front of the

Radford Army Arsenal Plant, which is one of the major propellant plants for the United States Army. That is still on the six-year plan, I understand. I want to thank you for keeping that there as a number one priority for our regional counties as well.

Also, the climbing lanes on 81, again another top priority for us. So, again, I hope that will continue to stay in the six-year plan.

Again, I'll just finally close with what Delegate Crockett Stark said again. The secondary road funds in Pulaski County are down to about 90 percent. It used to be -- again, I know that's an issue all through the Commonwealth, tough challenges, but I certainly remind you that in some of these rural areas, that's very important for us as well.

I know you have a difficult task in front of you, so we thank you for being here.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much.

Are there any other members of the General

Assembly here? Okay. Next is Beth Elliot,

1 who is a representative for Congressman Tom 2 Perriello. 3 MS. ELLIOTT: I don't have anything to 4 say. 5 MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you. We have 6 Bruce Brown, mayor elect of the City of Radford. 8 MR. BROWN: Ladies and gentlemen, 9 thanks for your service to the Commonwealth 10 and the opportunity to come out and speak to 11 you tonight. 12 I served on the city council of Radford 13 for two terms and was elected mayor. 14 assume office July 1. So I want to talk to 15 you from two perspectives. One, as an 16 elected official and bring you thanks from 17 the citizens of Radford and the Radford 18 University community for helping fund public 19 transportation through the Department of 20 Rails and Public Transportation. 21 22 23

today. So I appreciate that and thank you for that consideration.

I would echo Delegate Nutter. I lived in Montgomery County on 114 before I moved to Radford in 1993. And the bridge, provided that's still in the picture, it definitely needs, not only from just transportation, but from the homeland security, a real need that that product get to the marketplace.

I drive to Wytheville every day, and I think the bridge across the New River at Exit 105, you are aware of some of the limits. I think that has to be a key priority, and I hope that that will get on the windshield and stay there.

The other thing I would ask is you helped us in the past with transportation enhancement moneys. We were able to construct a bikeway-walkway that has contributed dramatically to the community.

I hope that stays in the picture because, if we learn nothing from what's happening in the Gulf of Mexico, we need to find other alternatives to transportation

that aren't necessarily fossil-fuel based. So I know that's in the landscape picture, and I think that's important.

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I work with a company down in Wytheville called Evatran that's making electric cars. They have got a vision to try and create docking stations and get some other modes for folks to maybe break the bonds that we have with that type of source of fuel.

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or ruer.

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a funding body, you have the solemn

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responsibility to paint a vision of where

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you'd like to see transportation go today and

So I think, as a policy-making body and

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in the future. And you do a good job of

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that, and we applaud that.

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down to Roanoke and stop at Radford, Pulaski,

We would love to see Amtrak come on

18 19

Bristol, and Abingdon. We give some money

20

each year to help that happen, and I think

21

that's critical.

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I have traveled to New York a couple

23

times, and I enjoy getting on the train in

Lynchburg and getting to Penn Central at 2:30

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in the afternoon and not have to fight 81.

If you haven't read the Roanoke Times article -- I imagine you did -- that was in the paper this weekend, it was very instructive about some of the, I guess, urban legends that go along with that road with the reality of how scary it is. So that's of real interest to me as a citizen and also as an elected official. Thank you.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much, and congratulations. Mr. Bob Dowd representing the Danville Metropolitan Planning Organization.

MR. DOWD: Thank you. I represent the West Piedmont Planning District Commission and the Danville MPO, so I wear several hats.

I'd just like to note that I am providing a letter that identifies a number of projects across my geographic areas of responsibility that the localities would like to see undertaken in the future. We have put these before you recognizing the situation regarding the funding, but nonetheless wanting to keep you abreast of the area needs

for planning purposes.

However, tonight I wanted to thank you for the assistance that you have provided to the area recently. The Robertson Bridge project in Danville is being provided funds through you, and our project will be done soon. We really appreciate it.

I'm also aware that work will be undertaken on Interstate 73 corridor work and that this will mean a whole lot, as Roscoe said earlier, to our region in the future.

Support has been received on the status of the Martinsville-Henry County Transit

System, including an earmark. That's a great help, and it's going great as far as our system today. Trail work is proceeding using our funds in the Martinsville-Henry County area and also Danville.

Route 29 is, for practical purposes, at this time our interstate, and we support the planning effort that you have undertaken over the last several years on this route.

We, of course, want to see solutions implemented that will ensure that the route

remains in an uncongested and free-flowing condition as much as practical for traffic using a car from the Virginia-Carolina line up to Gainesville, Virginia, and the Northern

5 Virginia area.

I also note that VDOT is continuing to make improvements along US Route 220, which is so important as a trade and commuter route. This is very helpful to us as a region.

The work that has continued over the years and the upcoming work on US58 is central to traffic movements east and west in our area and is also critical to economic development in our region.

We also are appreciative of the work on extending rail passenger service connections between Southwest and South Central Virginia and the Northern Virginia-D.C. area. We do ask for help in making these services corridor stops and so forth accessible to regional citizens, so we'll need adequate parking lot spaces in the near future at these various stops. Also, shuttle services

1 might be looked at in the future.

Obviously, we want to see the Crescent service between Danville -- this is Amtrak service between Danville and points north and south of us continued into the future.

We'd also like to express our appreciation for the assistance you have given to us on the past and present projects. These are across Franklin, Henry, Patrick, and Pittsylvania County. Everything you are doing is a great help to us. I can't mention everything, but we really appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much. Mr. Joe Sheffey.

MR. SHEFFEY: Good evening. The New River Valley Planning District Commission would like to thank you for your time and dedicated efforts towards transportation improvements in the region.

We would like to thank you for addressing the district bridge structures, particularly continued investment towards the Route 114 bridge connecting Pulaski and

Montgomery Counties, the recommendation of the Route 61 bridge at Narrows utilizing ARRA funding, and preliminary engineering for the 219 bridge in Rich Creek. We hope that you will keep these allocated funds in place and on schedule.

In support of the region's MPO, the commission would like to support the construction of an interchange along US Route 460. The interchange would remove the last remaining traffic signal along 460 through the MPO area and would also improve access for Southgate Drive and ease the expansion of the Corporate Research Center.

Finally, similar to many locations throughout Virginia, our local transportation system suffers from a variety of safety and capacity deficiencies. These roadways with statewide and regional significance in this region include I81, US Route 460, 11, and 221, Virginia primaries 114, 100, and 80. These corridors play a major role in the region's ability to move people and freight.

The planning commission truly

1 appreciates the opportunity to provide 2 comment to you this evening, and we hope to continue to communicate these needs to the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Commonwealth Transportation Board. MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much.

Mr. Steve Mouras.

MR. MOURAS: Thank you, Secretary Connaughton and Members of the CTB, particularly Mr. Dana Martin. My name is Steve Mouras. I'm the director of transportation with Virginia Tech. I'm also the representative for the university on the local MPO. That's the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery County area MPO.

I'd like to talk to you briefly about one project, and it's a project that's near and dear to the university's heart. also a project that the localities support as well. You just heard the PDC talk about it, and that is a grade-separated interchange along Route 460 Bypass in the vicinity of Southgate Drive.

Southgate Drive is one of the primary

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entrances to the university and also the town of Blacksburg and is the major connection point to the university's Corporate Research Center. This is the last at-grade interchange that we have in that location.

We think a grade-separated interchange would be helpful for several reasons. One, we believe that it will enhance the safety and efficiency of the intersection. And, number two, we think it will be a stimulus to the economy in the area providing better connectivity to that side of campus, to the Corporate Research Center, and also to the town of Blacksburg.

We at the university support this, and we have talked to the CTB about it in previous years since that time. We have funded a study through the MPO in order to create some momentum on this project. We put to date over \$9000 into the study for the development of an interchange modification report.

In addition to that, at last year's CTB meeting, we pledged to the CTB that we would

offer the right-of-way at no cost, which is a substantial savings to this project, since the interchange would be totally on Virginia Tech property. That's our level of commitment and our level of interest in this project and trying to move it forward.

One of the things that we just learned about is that there is additional funding through DOT through the TIGER Program, the TIGER II Program, if you will, the second phase of it. And we would like to lift up this project as potentially an opportunity for TIGER II funding since it has the ability to use the nonfederal match of the right-of-way that we're seeking that we committed to providing to you at no cost.

We think this project creates a unique opportunity to dovetail with the criteria and the priorities that the TIGER project really offers. So we would lift that up as something for your consideration as well.

So, in summary, we are requesting your consideration for inclusion of this project, grade-separated interchange of Route 460

Bypass, onto the six-year improvement program. We would also like to lift up the idea that this might be an ideal project for the TIGER II program.

So thank you again for your time and all that you have done for the Commonwealth.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much. John Dew.

MR. DEW: Good evening. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you. I'm here on behalf of the council and the manager of the Town of Abingdon and for my son, Ian, who is in the audience here.

And I'd like to say for our town, in the past year we have lost the listing of the I81 Exit 17 interchange improvements on the six-year plan, and we just recently had the town residency shut down. We're not sure what we did to make you angry, but we're sorry and we want you back.

Three of the five major corridors that come into our town go through interstate interchanges, and all three interchanges are of the older design. And with that, just

like many of the interchanges, they have some traffic capacity issues and some safety issues.

With the issue about the Exit 17 listing, I know it's not likely that we will have total reconstruction, but I would like to ask if there is a way to reshift the focus from total interchange rebuild to some sort of smaller improvements that could be made to the ramps or where the ramps intersect our primary roads into town or if there are any other changes, turn lanes, that we could make at the interchanges, something less expensive that might be more realistic looking forward in the short-term future until funding may become available to do the total rebuild.

The other issue we have is that Main Street that runs through town, which is also Route 11 and Route 58, is showing signs of aging. And I'd like to ask if there are any suggestions on how to approach repair or repave beyond the scope of what we are capable of doing with our town maintenance allocations. So any suggestions I would

certainly enjoy hearing. Thank you.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you for your statement. Mr. Harry Bundy.

MR. BUNDY: Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Since the meeting in Roanoke, there was a headline in the Roanoke Times that said, Want to catch the train? Ride the bus.

Well, if you live in Winston-Salem and you want to catch the train to Washington, what do you do? You go to Old Salem, get on the bus, and go to Greensboro, 45 minutes. If you are in Norfolk and you want to go to Washington, what do you do? You go to the bus station, take the bus to the train at Newport News. If you live in San Francisco and you want to go to Chicago, what do you do? You go to the Ferry Building, you catch the bus to Emeryville, and you ride the train to Chicago.

Somehow Roanoke has had a hard time accepting this fact. As far as Roanoke, Abingdon, Bristol goes, I'll poison your mind. Maybe if there were a long distance

train, there would be sufficient traffic to

warrant a train. The mayor of Bristol at the

meeting in Roanoke in May said there is

insufficient ridership to originate and

terminate the train in Bristol.

But suppose we made it Memphis?

Knoxville doesn't have passenger service. If

you are in Chattanooga and you want to ride

the train, you have to go to Gainesville,

Georgia. So consider making a long-term,

long-distance train.

My second item here is Item 11.3.1.5, additional improvements with federal funding, 19 projects to be undertaken between Washington, D.C., and Main Street Station in Richmond. From the Potomac River to Main Street Station is 113 miles.

If my calculator added up these projects right, these 19 projects, it comes to \$1,754,900,000. And I'm not sure of this figure because I couldn't take my shoes off in the library, but I think it comes out to be fifteen and a half million dollars a mile.

Let's discuss this in two sections.

First of all, from Fredericksburg to Staples
Mill Station, 54.6 miles. In this
improvement, they want to add a third rail
from Parnell to Elmont, from (inaudible) to
Hamilton, and from Guinea to Milford. From
Guinea to Milford is going to require a
bridge over Polecat Creek and one over the
Mattaponi River, and they ain't cheap.

Now, here is Timetable Number 97 in effect July 1944. 22 southbound trains every day, 22 northbound passenger trains every day. This excludes the freight. Virginians just knew how to do it better, and I have to wonder if this isn't overkill spending 207.7 miles in that 54.6 miles.

Now let's talk about the second part, and that's the part between Fredericksburg and Washington. Here the complexion of the traffic changes because of Virginia Railway Express, and there's a need for Virginia Railway Express.

In March 2003 there was a storm that knocked out the signal system in Milford, snowstorm. CSX suspended traffic. They

claimed it was the storm of the century.

It's a shame they couldn't have been in

Buffalo in 1977 because the N&W had trustees

from Attica Prison clearing snow, they had

contractors from hither and you clearing

snow, and they had me clearing snow.

There was so much snow that we didn't know what to do with it, and then somebody got an idea. We'll load it in empty hopper cars going back to Virginia, and it will melt. Well, guess what happened? It got to St. Paul, and it hadn't melted. But the railroad kept operating.

Now, the Virginia Railway Express

offers commuters a way to get to DC. They go
in in the morning, most of them, and return
in the afternoon after work. This past year,
starting about December the 18th, every
weekend we had snow. And I would check by
using the telephone what trains were running.
Well --

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Mr. Bundy, you are way over the three-minute limit, but we're enjoying this very much. Can you just

1 conclude? 2 MR. BUNDY: I'm sorry, I didn't know it 3 was three minutes. 4 MR. CONNAUGHTON: That's fine. 5 MR. BUNDY: Well, if we are going to 6 make these improvements, somebody needs to 7 tell CSX what Mussolini said. Do you know 8 what Mussolini said? He said, The trains 9 will run on time. Thank you. 10 MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you. That's 11 great. Is that really a 1944 timetable? 12 MR. BUNDY: Yes, sir. 13 MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thanks. Can I keep 14 these? 15 MR. BUNDY: (Inaudible.) 16 MR. CONNAUGHTON: That's excellent. 17 Thank you very much. I learned a lot. 18 Mr. Peter Huber. 19 MR. HUBER: Thank you very much for 20 being here in Pulaski County. Welcome to the 21 county. I'm Pete Huber, county 22 administrator, and I would like to first 23 thank you for your help with the Route 114 24 bridge. That's a primary road that's been in

need for some time. The other bridge that's at issue is Interstate 81.

I guess the focus of my comments would be that if you have a priority, it would probably be good to put it on bridges. It doesn't much matter what kind of roads you have if you don't have a way to get across the various obstructions, railroads, rivers, those kinds of things.

Since we don't have a chance to talk with you very often, I'd like to also address some issues that are related to the secondary road system as I notice in the back of the handout that you do have secondary road allocations in there.

For Pulaski County, you are at 90 percent of what it used to be, and that's of serious concern. For us, secondary roads is where the rubber meets the road for the localities.

Most people don't understand that local roads are not local issues, so they have a hard time understanding. Still the public doesn't fully understand that the local roads

are a state issue.

And locally we have a bridge that was closed last week. There are a hundred people that live up in this holler called Pond Lick Holler. The hundred folks there now have to haul their trash out by a pickup truck instead of a trash truck. If they have a fire, it's going to be a problem because it's going to be a ghost truck that responds instead of a fire truck.

We understand we are not under any circumstances allowed to cross the bridge with more than seven tons on limit. An ambulance can get up there, but a school bus can't. So those kind of issues are really day-to-day type issues. This is going to be the case, my understanding is, at least one, maybe two, years.

In the other areas, we probably have another five or six bridges in the same kind of situation. So that's a major concern in the outlying areas of the state, I'm sure in other places as well, and allocation of funds for that purpose and maybe also some changes

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in the regulation about quicker response.

In talking with David Clark, I understand the process. They do the bridge inspection, and whatever the numbers turn out, they have to respond immediately to what that happens to be. It may take a year or two before -- maybe some preplanning can be done or some other way that we can go ahead and be doing the environmental work and other things waiting on the bridges.

Also related to secondary roads -- and again I apologize for being off topic. I try not to be. The potential -- looks to me like there is a potential savings for using chip and seal where you have got dirt roads that are on hilly terrain.

A flat dirt road probably lasts longer and will serve well. But when you start having steep grades, I suspect you are probably having to pay more in routine grading than what chip and seal might be able to save in the long run.

Finally, I would encourage you to take a look at the differences in funding and

regulations between roads that are managed and operated by municipalities and those that are run by VDOT. I think the per -- there was tremendous difference in per lane allocation. This is before the secondary roads got cut back. I'm afraid to look at what it is now.

And then also in the guidelines, things like local ability to set speed limits and those kind of things. It's kind of an ongoing aggravation for several citizens in Pulaski County.

So with that, I'll close. I appreciate you being here again and apologize for being slightly off topic. I hope you will consider the concerns related to the secondary system as well. Thank you.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you. David Foster.

MR. FOSTER: Secretary Connaughton and members of the CTB, I want to thank you for coming here today. You too, Kevin. Thank you for coming here today in Southwest Virginia and allowing us to speak about the

six-year plan.

First of all, I want to commend all the transportation powers that be in Virginia for allowing rail to become an increasing part of this exercise. Back in 2003 when Rail Solution was first founded, we were on the flaky fringe of rail advocacy. We were the only people out there beating the drum for rail.

Now this isn't quite such a lonely task, but we continue to work at it. We are at least getting to the point now, it seems to me, where we recognize that a multimodal approach is best, that we don't want to look upon ever more lanes of highway to address every problem of congestion and growth. And that's a good thing.

Of course, we have a long way to go, and Rail Solution will be there urging Virginia to do more for rail. Our advocacy, unlike most, is mostly focused on freight rail, which is the part of rail that gets the less amount of attention.

The public is enamored with passenger

rail, and there's nothing wrong with that, but there's a lot of people speaking for passenger rail as a result. We speak for freight rail.

Our membership from the beginning has been concentrated in the I81 corridor. In the I81 corridor, freight is a problem. We hear all the time about the volume of trucking on I81.

So it's good to know that there is a Norfolk Southern rail line that parallels the interstate all the way from Knoxville,

Tennessee, to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This resource can help us alleviate congestion on the interstate.

Norfolk Southern's Crescent corridor is a good start, but we need to do more. That's a double-stack container initiative. It focuses entirely on shipping containers. The problem on I81 is not one necessarily of shipping containers. A lot of it is independent truckers who will not be influenced by what Norfolk Southern has proposed to date.

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So I want to urge you to continue to think about this and about the potential for rail to ameliorate congestion and to add freight capacity when it can do so more cost effectively and in an environmentally preferential way as opposed to adding two more lanes of highway. We need an open intermodal concept in the corridor that will allow us to handle all trucks, not just shipping containers.

I want to close by commenting on something from the Salem District because that's what we're supposed to do here at this hearing, and my comments have been mostly focused at the overall six-year plan.

When I first went to the VDOT workshop on the Montgomery County truck climbing lanes, it was a \$130 million project, and it involved rebuilding I81 southbound for 18 miles between Ironto and Christiansburg to the ultimate profile. That's a VDOT technical term, but it means whatever we would reasonably need some day in the future.

And although it was called a truck

climbing lane, it involved 72 feet more pavement width. We campaigned against that even though we think the truck climbing lane is a good idea. There are two truck climbing lanes there. There's a gap in the middle. It makes perfect logical sense to fill in the gap, but it didn't make sense to rebuild the entire 18 miles of interstate to ultimate profile.

And I'm pleased when I look in here today and I see that it's been scaled back to focus now only on the -- well, the gap is actually 4.5 miles, and this project has been scaled back to 5 miles. So there's probably a little overlap that has to be reconfigured at both ends.

But that's a good thing. Whenever we talk about funding transportation in

Virginia, there's an outcry from the public if ever we talk about new funding, especially if it's new taxes. And I have long thought — this is a personal observation. I have long thought that this stems largely from mistrust of VDOT where in the past people

have seen funds allocated imprudently or maybe even wasted.

I think this is an important step in the right direction, to scale this project back and focus only on filling in the five-mile gap instead of rebuilding the entire interstate to ultimate profile.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment this afternoon.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you,
Mr. Foster. Good seeing you again. Dennis
Folsom.

MR. FOLSOM: Hi. I'm Dennis Folsom.

I'm a resident of Pulaski, and I just

represent myself, or John Q. Public maybe.

For 17 years I commuted from Pulaski to Roanoke to teach English, and it was harrowing. And it became worse by the year to the point that at the fifteenth year, I said to my wife, I have got to slow down.

And so I took a small apartment in Roanoke just to slow down and be able to retire. For two years I did that and came home basically on weekends. This was not a good solution

for her or for me.

I found the article in the Roanoke
Times very fascinating. I hope all of you
have seen Sunday's -- the first of a series
of articles on I81. They concluded that it's
one of the safest, but yet it is not
overtaxed by trucks and by automobiles. And
I find that astounding. Yesterday in the
editorial, what I found more shocking was
that the editorialist said that the truck
traffic on I81 will double in 25 years, it's
projected, and that there's no money to
maintain or expand the interstate.

So I guess you know where this is going. I love trains. I grew up in Tri-Cities, Tennessee, and we took trains to Florida, to New York, and in between, Chattanooga Choo-Choo, the whole thing.

Now that our three grown daughters are out and married, two live in Richmond, one lives in D.C. So we have to still drive I81 and I64 to Richmond about ten times a year for birthdays for the grandchildren, etc.

Driving to Washington is no easier. In fact,

1 it's worse. But I81 I find extremely 2 hazardous. 3 We in '98 bought a timeshare in 4 Manhattan, so we annually go to New York. 5 we go up to Washington, park our car at the 6 daughter's house, and go up. And it's a 7 piece of cake. I haven't tried the Lynchburg 8 train yet, but I am very, very --9 MR. PEAKE: Drive to Lynchburg. 10 MR. FOLSOM: I haven't tried the train 11 yet. 12 MR. PEAKE: Come on up anytime. 13 MS. FOSTER: I'm worried about where to 14 park my car. 15 MR. PEAKE: We'll take care of that. 16 MR. FOLSOM: Oh, okay. Thank you. 17 That's been my concern, because I had free 18 parking at Amanda's, you know, so ... 19 But, anyway, it's my dream -- I'm 20 retired now, and I have been since '03. It's 21 my dream to live to see train service come 22 all the way down through the Roanoke Valley 23 and into Pulaski and on down to Bristol as 24 others have said today. That is my dream.

And I will try the Lynchburg train, but I think that we should look at passenger rail seriously and forget eight-laning I81. I think that's absurd.

That's all. I'm kind of intimidated by all the ties. I underdressed for this.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much. You underdressed, we kind of overdressed, but that's the role we got to play. Joe Meredith.

MR. MEREDITH: Good evening. My name is Dr. Joe Meredith, and I'm president of the Corporate Research Center at Virginia Tech.

I appreciate the opportunity to recommend that the proposed interchange enhancement project at Ramble Road and Industrial Park Boulevard in Blacksburg be included in the six-year plan.

These enhancements will mitigate a growing problem with access into and out of the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, the osteopathic medical school, and Virginia Tech. With over 2200 people working for 140

arguably one of the state's most successful economic development projects.

companies in the research centers, the CRC is

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The CRC recently received a \$2 million federal grant to build the infrastructure for a second phase where we have master planned another million square feet in 18 buildings with the expectation that the park will double in size.

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There are only two ways to get into and

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out of the CRC. We're currently experiencing

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significant backups during both rush hours.

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The continued growth of the park will

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continue to exacerbate this problem.

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6 approximately a million dollars would simply

to VDOT.

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add right turn lanes to both Ramble Road and

This project estimated to cost

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add right turn lanes to both Ramble Road and

18 19 Industrial Park Boulevard. This relatively

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simple improvement requires no right-of-way,

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can be accomplished in a short time frame,

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and will significantly minimize queues now and under future traffic conditions according

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I'd like to thank the Town of

Blacksburg, Blacksburg Partnership, and VDOT for their support in the analysis of this project. The model of the interchange developed by the Salem District demonstrates that the proposed enhancements will solve the current and future problems. Thanks for your consideration of this project.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much. Mr. Ward Stevens.

MR. STEVENS: I want to just thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project that Dr. Meredith just described.

As an employee of the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, I think I'm kind of uniquely qualified to comment on the value of this project because I have the only office in the Corporate Research Center that looks down Ramble Drive toward that intersection as well as looks down on the intersection of Kraft Drive into Ramble Road.

I think there are two main issues that this project will effectively address. First is the backup. Frankly, looking from my office, if you are not out of that building

by 5 till 5, out of our building, you might as well just stay there until about 5:30.

And as the CRC expands, that problem will only be exacerbated.

The second issue, which is, I think, maybe even a little more important to me personally because I have daughters that drive, is that when all the traffic downloads onto Main Street, given the amount of time that it takes vehicles to get through that intersection, people frequently make bad decisions. It's not uncommon for red lights to be run, and I believe it's just a quite dangerous situation.

This project would help address that, so I encourage your support of this project. Thank you.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you. Mr. Vinod Chachra.

MR. CHACHRA: Good evening, and thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Vinod Chachra, and I'm a long-term resident of Blacksburg. We started the first spinoff corporation from Virginia Tech in the

original residence of the Corporate Research Center that you just heard about.

Road interchange, but from a personal point

I'm speaking in support of the Ramble

of view. You heard the technical points

already.

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The decision that we made to stay in the Corporate Research Center after we started in CRC is because it represents a wonderful quality of life, a green environment, fantastic infrastructure, and the ability to recruit and retain really wonderful people. And that infrastructure, at a personal level, is being threatened by a simple traffic problem.

threatened. You cannot go through the interchange and maintain an 8-to-5 working schedule, so I have had to personally change my 8-to-5 schedule from 9-to-6. This, of course, represents a double jeopardy for my wife. I'm in the house from 8 to 9 when she doesn't want me there, and I'm not in the house from 5 to 6 when she needs me there.

So this lifestyle change is not only for me but also for the other people that work in our environment.

We know that the Corporate Research Center offers fantastic opportunities for economic growth as evidenced by the work already done at Virginia Tech and the CRC.

The solution is very, very simple.

It's not very costly at all. It can be done in a short period of time and will give VDOT an opportunity to show success very quickly and alleviate the problem that really exists that is threatening to reduce the quality of the park and the growth potential of the park.

the park because some of us export a lot of our intellectual property all over the globe. Our own company exports to 42 countries. We bring people in from all over the globe, and we won't be able to continue to do that for a very simple traffic problem. So I certainly urge your consideration of this project. Thank you.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you. Barbara Duerk.

MS. DUERK: Mr. Secretary,

Mr. Commissioner, Members of the Commonwealth

Transportation Board, District

Administrators, and Mr. Page. I am Barbara

Duerk. I'm representing the Virginia

Bicycling Federation, the unified voice of

Virginia bicyclists since 1980. I have

Jeanne Duddy with me here today, and she is

going to talk to you a little bit about the

76 route.

But we want to say thanks to Rob Cary from the Lynchburg Construction District, to Jim Bowie from the Bristol Construction District, and -- for all that they have done to make bicycling in Virginia much better and also for those of you that were on the Commonwealth Transportation Board in 2004 for passing the pedestrian and bicycle policies and procedures. Now we just need to have them implemented.

Lots of things are happening. We have got a new bike map out, and I'm glad to see

that 76 and Route 1 are back on the maps thanks to Mr. Bowie. We have bicycles on buses. Roanoke accommodates all bicycles either on rack or by allowing them to come inside.

And we have a Smart Way bus that connects Roanoke to Blacksburg, and there is such a bicycle need there. They are working on making plans on how to accommodate more bikes on the Smart Way bus. So we are trying to take some of the traffic off of T81.

Bikes on train. I love Lynchburg. And I fought for that Amtrak to come to Roanoke and make it all the way down to Bristol. The problem is when I go up there with my bike, I can't take my bike on the subsidized train because you need to have a baggage cart to take your bike.

What happens is, when I get to
Washington, then I need to rent a bike so I
can get around Washington or else use their
transit there. So if we can get the bikes on
the buses, I think we can get the bikes on
the train too.

We need to update our bicycling information. We have a bicycle map, yes, but I think we can go more tech now. Google has bicycle directions, and we can do bicycling directions. I know Governor Allen proposed a public and private way to promote bicycle tourism when he was governor, and I think we can do more to promote the 76 route and economic development and tourism on our -- in our areas.

If you go to Arlington, Alexandria, and Montreal, Canada, you can plug in where you want to go, and it just tells you how to get there by bicycle. And that helps reduce air -- reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and helps with childhood obesity, helps with my obesity. So let's look at the bicycle as a way of transportation.

We need to hire a bike-ped coordinator.

I know we're doing a national search for a commissioner. We need to do a national search for our Virginia bike-ped coordinator.

I know that we think we have it best here in Virginia, we have it made, but other states

have offices of bicycling and pedestrian that

-- and maybe we can look to how they are

doing it to bring new ideas to Virginia.

We need to approve and implement the bike plan for Virginia. I know that's working through the system right now. We need to approve and implement the updated NUTCD guidelines that got approved on the federal level in December. And, hopefully, those will be coming to you real soon, because there are some wonderful new ideas, like sharrows, that are in the pipeline.

Rails with trails. That's something that we have been talking about. You have heard about rails to trails before with our trails system. We have railswithtrail.com. This has been an initiative of the Virginia Bicycling Federation, which I will pass out later.

But when we came through Ashland, and Ashland has both the 76 and the Route 1 route, we sat and had lunch at Suzanne's. We sat there and we watched three Amtraks and two freight trains come by. And right there

by the train right by the sidewalk, we have a high speed rail coming through, and there is a trail component as part of that.

We have an intermodal on the eastern part of the state, and there's trail plans that are part of that too. Last General Assembly there was an updated Landowner Liability Recreational Act that identifies the railroads, so, hopefully, they will be more willing to work with trails. Trails connect our neighborhoods, our community, our Commonwealth.

The federal government is spending over 8 billion to improve the railroad infrastructure. Virginia gave over 300-plus million dollars to improve the railroad infrastructure. When we do that, when we give money to special groups, let's remember multimodal.

There's people out walking. There's people out bicycling. There's people out using better vehicles. There's trucks and there's trains and there's buses, and we can share. I know we can. Thank you.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you. Jeanne Duddy.

MS. DUDDY: I was a teacher for thirty years, so I brought a lot of visual aids.

Good evening, Commissioner and members of the CT Board. My name is Jeanne Duddy, and I'm from Roanoke, Virginia.

I have come tonight for the second year to say thank you, thank you, thank you for all you are doing to provide bicycle accommodations across our great Commonwealth of Virginia. I just completed the 570 miles from Breaks Interstate Park where you will find the beautiful Grand Canyon of the South, and we finished at York River where our cross-state team dipped their wheels to say thank you for a safe -- giving us a safe journey.

Along the way we used three main things. One was the TransAmerican Bicycle Route sign that you will see on the highways. Maybe you haven't seen these before, but some of you have. The other two things we used were maps that were provided by Adventure

Cycling, and that takes you all the way from Yorktown to Oregon or from Oregon to Yorktown, whichever way you want to go.

And the third thing were the local Wayfinding signs, because there are some cities in Virginia that don't have Route 76 signs in their localities, the city localities, so they have to use the maps and the Wayfinding signs that the localities have posted.

The team's mission this year was to talk to local government leaders about the TransAmerican Trail that passes through 23 counties in Virginia. We are fortunate to have the most miles of the whole trail in Virginia. So that's economic impact because these travelers are spending their dollars in our localities.

The team was enthusiastically welcomed by many governments, and I'll just pass a few pictures around so you can see the governments. You might recognize some of these folks. The governments of -- and these were just a few. The governments of Haysi,

Pulaski, Wytheville, and Yorktown enthusiastically welcomed us.

We presented many with the governor's proclamation, and I have one for each of you gentlemen. Every year our governor writes a proclamation and signs it declaring May as bicycle month in the state of Virginia. But last year I found out -- when I was riding through Lexington, they had a big banner across the street at VMI, and it said that May is National Bicycle Month. So it's not just Virginia that has control of celebrating bicycles in the state, but the whole United States.

We also presented several businesses and motels, bed and breakfasts, with the Virginia Bicycling Federation's decal so that when you are out riding -- and I have one here in my hand if you guys want to see what it looks like.

When you are out riding those back country roads or even in the localities, you will see this decal on many grocery store doors, little country grocery stores. You

will see them on bicycle shops. You will see

We met many cyclists going across Virginia headed to Oregon. They were using the Route 76 sign to find their way. International as well as U.S. citizens welcomed these signs, because some of these international folks that we met along the way couldn't speak English, so they were using the signs. I just happen to have a few pictures of these people.

They came from such places as Australia, China, England, Holland, Germany, Baltimore, Indiana, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington. And that was just in the 14 days that we were out there. So they are going to be traveling until October of this year. There will be many, many more out there. They all said how beautiful our state is.

In closing, I would like to request two things from VDOT. First, to promote the TransAmerican Bicycle Trail as a destination.

them on restaurants. You will see them on And they are bicycle friendly. They motels. sometimes even give us discounts.

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And, secondly, I would like to ask that you promote routes into cities with signs where cyclists can enjoy the history, the festivals, and the cuisine that we have here.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request, and I invite everyone here tonight to join Delegate Hargrove and me next year in May to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the U.S. Bike Route 76. Ride all, ride some, or drive the sag car. We'll take everybody with us that wants to come because you never will experience such a thing as riding a bicycle through the roads of Virginia. Thank you.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you. Doug Juanarena.

MS. DUDDY: I have some maps too with the route marked on them if anybody wants one.

MR. JUANARENA: Thank you,

Mr. Secretary and the Members of the CTB, for

bringing this hearing to the New River Valley

tonight. I'm Doug Juanarena, a resident of

Blacksburg.

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I'm here tonight to advocate for the
improvements to the intersection of Ramble
Road and the Industrial Park Drive in South
Blacksburg. I'm a business owner with a
business located on Kraft Drive in the
Corporate Research Center, and I'm also chair
of Blacksburg Partnership. So from those two
entities, I'm going to be advocating.

Each day I enter and leave multiple

Each day I enter and leave multiple

times that entrance, and it's obvious to

those of us who use that entrance that the

vast improvements that were undertaken ten

years ago, that the designers of those

improvements to South Main and 460, they just

didn't anticipate the tremendous success and

growth that we have had in our park.

We now have 2000-plus employees, as you heard from Dr. Meredith. With Phase II beginning, we will have 3000 employees. With those 3000 employees using that entrance and exit to the park, the traffic is going to become untenable.

So over the past six months, several of us embarked along with the Blacksburg

Partnership in working with Richard Caywood and the Salem District. They have done a fantastic job studying the problem and coming up with a pretty simple solution to alleviate the traffic.

So this is going to be a low-cost, high-impact project. I'm here tonight to ask the transportation board to approve the Ramble Road-Industrial Park Drive improvements under the VDOT six-year plan.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our Commonwealth, and thank you for consideration of this project.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much. Mr. Jim Bishop.

MR. BISHOP: I appreciate you gentlemen inviting us to speak. I didn't realize this was going to be a six-year plan when I was asked to come here. Delegate Anne B.

Crockett I think addressed you a little while ago. She asked me to come over and speak with you about a concern that I have in the Draper area. She is our representative.

It so happens that we live on a road

that's a bicycle trail, 76. And there's a couple places on that road if two bicycles pass, they might have a problem. That's one of the things I wanted to address.

I know you are talking about a six-year plan, but if you can get mine in the six-day, I would appreciate it. Somebody that has some authority to make a couple good decisions.

I know that you want to save money. I get letters. I have got a letter from Anne when she came back home about the things that she has done when she was in Richmond and how they are trying to save money. I read it in the papers how they are trying to cut different things to save money.

I have even read in the paper where they are going to cut the mowing to twice a year, which the former governor did the same thing, and I read that they are going to take one pass down this side of the interstate and one pass down this side of the interstate and probably none in the median strip.

Well, I can't even get them to come

down Old Baltimore Road and cut one strip down both sides of that road and get the brush and the weeds off of the road. You don't have room to pass, and that's the truth. Just drive down that road. You'll enjoy the scenery if you can see over the bushes.

So I would like for something to be done about that. I have talked to Dave Thayer. I have talked to Dave Clark, the Salem office. I haven't gotten any satisfaction. I would like for someone that can make a decision to come out and view a couple problems we have and to get them fixed.

When you turn off Interstate 81 on Exit 89, you make a little loop around, and you get on Kirby Road, which runs parallel to the interstate going south. And about three hundred yards after you get onto that road, there is a creek that runs between the interstate and Kirby Road. The creek gets up. It's beginning to wash out along the edge of that road. In some places the fence

has fallen in.

And David Clark went out with me, and he looked at that. Two years ago the state came by. They took their yellow cans of spray paint, and they sprayed circles in about six places up that road where the road is dangerously close to being in the creek.

Two years ago. The paint has wore off, and I guess the idea of fixing it has wore off with it because no one has done anything about it.

But here's my problem that I see. They come down this year, and going down Kirby Road on both sides, they scrape all the sod off the road with graders. And I'm sure maybe they have a little water problem somewhere.

I have walked that road for 13 years.

I walked two, three, and five miles on that road, my exercise. Some places on that road where -- about three-quarters of a mile from where it dead-ends, there's no cars that go up and down that road. And they scraped all the sod off.

The road needs to be fixed at a place

where the creek is going to wash it away.

They are waiting on an accident or a car to go in. Why can't they spend the money to fix that road? Stop wasting it on doing piddly things like this. And I know there's a problem that they say, well, it's got to be done. I walked that road for 13 years, and I have never met a puddle yet.

I don't understand. I don't understand why they have to do that and then tell me that they can't cut a swipe down both sides of Old Baltimore Road, and then go out here and mow the median strips on my way down here yesterday and today. They have taken two and three and four cuts on both sides of the interstate.

Why when they say -- and David Clark told me, We are not going to cut like that.

Well, I'm sorry. He needs to drive the road and look at it. And I hate to use somebody's name, but I'm not getting any satisfaction.

And I hope that you have heard me and that you can find someone that can come out and give me an answer and give me a reason

why you can't clean the bushes off Old
Baltimore Road for the cars to drive up and
down.

They resealed that road back in the fall, and we had a nice double line down the road. Hasn't been replaced. And I'm sorry, but some of those elderly people on that road just think it's one way since there's no line on it. And I'm serious about that.

There's a Presbyterian church below me, and they probably have around 300 members. I don't go down there, but some of those people -- you know, if you don't go down there at the right time, you might be in trouble. I appreciate you listening to me.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you.

Mr. Charles Tubman.

MR. TUBMAN: My name is Charles Tubman, Christiansburg, Virginia. I'm here speaking for myself.

First of all, I would like to thank

VDOT, thank you, thank you, thank you, for

the Lynchburg regional train. It is

wonderful. It runs on time. We don't have

the problems we used to have waiting for the Crescent, which could have run into other problems down the road. It's a wonderful form of transportation.

I guess one of my first -- the first thing I would just like to mention is that I am in favor of extending this service on to Roanoke, but I would say that the first -- I would think this would need to be done in stages.

The first stage really needs to be an Amtrak through-way bus that would run from Roanoke to Lynchburg. It doesn't have to be running for free. You can charge people to ride it. If you put it in the national Amtrak system, they can make it part of your ticket.

And the other thing is I would ask VDOT do not expect the City of Roanoke to do this bus. This needs to be a statewide endeavor. I know it's going to Roanoke. As a Smart Way bus driver, I'm already aware of the role that Roanoke takes in terms of providing public transportation to this whole area,

1 Roanoke Valley and New River Valley.

So I would just ask that VDOT take the leadership in terms of establishing a Smart Way bus and then, finally, extending the train on to Roanoke, Radford, eventually to Bristol.

Second thing I want to mention, as a resident of Montgomery County, I want to again thank VDOT and encourage them for taking the fight -- for continuing the fight for the Elliston intermodal facility. While it's not reflected in the current makeup of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, this project has widespread support through the county.

I appreciate VDOT's support for that and hope you hang in there for this fight to establish this. It's a worthwhile thing. I do think it will help to just improve the overall logistics and will also be a boon to Montgomery County too, although you wouldn't guess it by listening to our supervisors.

And then, finally, as a daily commuter on the Smart Way bus from Christiansburg to

Roanoke, again I thank VDOT for your support in helping to establish this. I hope this is the sort of thing that we can extend through the region. It is, again, a wonderful, wonderful service.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you. This actually completes the list of people that have signed up to speak. Would anyone else out there like to say anything? No? That then concludes this evening's hearing.

That's all I have to say. Thank you.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will be meeting on June 16 in Richmond to adopt the six-year plan for the next six years. I will be taking your comments, remarks, and those submitted to the record as well as those we have heard from at the other hearings on that date -- before that date.

Can I just ask, do any of the CTB members want to make remarks? No? District administrators?

MR. PEAKE: I want to say thank you to all you folks who spoke in favor of the train. We have been working on that in the

1.

Lynchburg area for a number of years. We started out with the folks from Bristol trying to make it a TransDominion Express. That's how it started in working with Roanoke, and we are still committed.

Our chamber has been pushing it for years. I think it is one of the ones that started it, and they are still working. And we want to get it to Bristol. So I don't want my Bristol folks to get mad. I know they got a little mad that it didn't go that way, but we are still committed to getting it all the way to Roanoke and Bristol and hopefully down into Tennessee. They are actually looking at that.

So keep supporting the train. That was it.

MR. CONNAUGHTON: Thank you very much. Anyone else? This concludes our hearing. I appreciate everybody coming out this evening, and we will maybe be here next year. Thank you.

(The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.)

1 <u>CERTIFICATE</u> 2 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CITY OF ROANOKE

I, Patricia J. Jensen, RPR, Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, at Large, do hereby certify that the Public Hearing was by me reduced to machine shorthand in the presence of all participants, afterwards transcribed by me by means of computer, and that to the best of my ability the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the Public Hearing as aforesaid.

I further certify that this Public Hearing was taken at the time and place specified in the foregoing caption.

I further certify that I have no interest in the outcome of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Roanoke, Virginia, on the 13th day of June 2010.



< Dates > December, 60:9 July 1, 22:14 July 1944. 37:10 June 16 76:13 June **2010**. 2:38. 78:18 June 3, 2010 1:10 March 2003 37:22 **#166415** 78:23 \$1,754,900,000. 36:20 **\$130** 46:18 **\$2** 52:4 **\$9000** 31:20 **'03**. 50:20 **'98** 50:3 **(540)380-5017** 1:34

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