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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

May 15, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S 131 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S 146 A The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
SD 142
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Bond
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
SD 128
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Senator Cochran, Senator Murray, and Senator Bond:

As you initiate your efforts to draft the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill for fiscal year 2010, I respectfully request your consideration of the following projects. I make these requests jointly with my colleague, Senator Mark R. Warner, who is conveying these requests under separate cover.

These requests are submitted in accordance with the proper constitutional role that Congress performs in the federal appropriations process. I examined these projects for the Commonwealth of Virginia based on two principles: first, they must represent a wise and prudent investment of tax dollars; second, requests for such projects are considered in an open, transparent manner.

In formulating this submission, my staff has gone to extraordinary lengths to screen all requests carefully to validate their merits. This process included face-to-face meetings in nearly all cases to assess and evaluate the projects of requesting entities.

VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Project Name: Main Street and Maple Avenue Improvements
Location: Town of Purcellville, Virginia
Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation
Amount: \$2,000,000

This project provides needed updates to the intersection of Main Street and Maple

Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia. Funds will expand capacity for motorists and school buses by adding turn lanes to each leg of the intersection, reduce conflict points by closing driveway, upgrade crosswalks, add pedestrian countdown signals, and provide ADA compliant sidewalks. Located in Loudoun County, Purcellville has experienced an 88 percent rate of growth from 2000 to 2007. Increased population and traffic volume has rendered this intersection undersized for its current and projected use. This project is part of the Virginia Department of Transportation's Six-Year Improvement Program and meets the criteria needed to qualify for funds from the Transportation & Community & System Preservation account, which supports projects that will improve the efficiency of the transportation system of the U.S., reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment, and provide efficient access to jobs, services, and centers of trade.

Project Name: Interstate-295 Meadowville Interchange
Location: County of Chesterfield, Virginia
Account: Interstate Maintenance
Amount: \$4,000,000

Funds will aid in the construction of an interchange at Interstate-295 and Meadowville Road in Chesterfield County. The interchange will provide direct access to one of Virginia's important economic development sites, the Meadowville Technology Park. The Interstate 295 interchange is essential to the long-term viability of the Meadowville Technology Park. Construction of the interchange will allow direct access into the Meadowville Technology Park enhancing the economic development opportunities it offers. Full build-out of the Meadowville Technology Park is projected to create more than 7,200 jobs and generate more than \$26 million annually in state income tax revenue for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The County's public investment towards the Park has already helped to generate private development within the Park.

Project Name: Interstate-95/Fairfax County Parkway Interchange at Newington Road
Location: County of Fairfax, Virginia
Account: Interstate Maintenance
Amount: \$5,000,000

This request is for funding to reconstruct the grade-separated interchange of I-95 and the Fairfax County Parkway at Newington Road. The funding request for this interchange is due to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommendations for Fort Belvoir. The reconstruction will address increased traffic congestion expected because of increased personnel and contractors for Army operations. This Interchange would provide better access to the Army base and the Engineer Proving Grounds (EPG) site.

Project Name: Fairfax County Parkway Interchange Improvements at Fair Lakes Boulevard and Monument Drive
Location: County of Fairfax, Virginia
Account: Surface Transportation Priorities
Amount: \$5,000,000

This project is a grade-separated interchange on the Fairfax County Parkway between I-66 and US Route 50 in the area of Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive. The existing at-grade, signalized

intersection at Fairfax County Parkway and Fair Lakes Parkway has been identified as one of the most congested areas of the Parkway, and it operates at Level of Service "F". Delays extend beyond the normal peak hours, include weekends, and are projected to worsen as traffic volumes increase. This grade-separation will significantly improve traffic flow on the Fairfax County Parkway by providing free flow conditions (no signals) between Route 50 and Popes Head Road.

Project Name: Lesner Bridge Replacement
Location: City of Virginia Beach, Virginia
Account: Surface Transportation Priorities
Amount: \$5,000,000

Funding will be used to replace the Lesner Bridge in Virginia Beach, VA. Due to the approximately 41,000 cars and trucks that cross the bridge daily, federal inspectors rated the Lesner Bridge's superstructure and substructure almost identical to that of the Interstate-35 bridge in Minneapolis shortly before it collapsed in 2007. Inspectors have noted saltwater seepage, as well as concrete cracking and corrosion, which all threaten the strength of the structure. The City's long-range capital plan estimates that it will cost about \$100 million to replace the Lesner Bridge, and the City has programmed \$30 million for it.

Project Name: Route 1 / Route 123 Interchange Improvements
Location: County of Prince William, Virginia
Account: Surface Transportation Priorities
Amount: \$5,000,000

This project involves replacement of an at-grade intersection at US Route 1 & State Route 123 with interchange including construction of a bridge over the CSX railroad (which is parallel to US Route 1), improved access to Virginia Railway Express station, widening of US Route 1 to 6 lanes from Occoquan Road to Annapolis Way, and widening of State Route 123 to 6 lanes from Horner Road to US Route 1. Funds will be used for construction of the US Route 1/ State Route 123 Interchange project. This is a project that was implemented by both Prince William County and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The County completed the design and most of the right of way acquisition and VDOT will do the remaining right of way, the utility relocation, and construction of the project.

Project Name: United States Route 17/Dominion Boulevard
Location: City of Chesapeake, Virginia
Account: Surface Transportation Priorities
Amount: \$5,000,000

Funding will be used for the design and construct improvements to Dominion Boulevard from Cedar Road to Great Bridge Boulevard, including replacement of the existing steel bridge. US Route 17/Dominion Boulevard spans approximately 6.5 miles connecting U.S. Route 17 South with Interstate 64. The existing corridor includes a 2-lane draw bridge with frequent openings for maritime traffic. Service on this section of roadway has deteriorated to one of the most congested corridors in the region and currently operates at a level of service F. In fact, the existing roadway is designed to carry approximately 7,500 vehicles per day – current traffic counts exceed 33,000

vehicles per day. In addition to moving commuter traffic through the City of Chesapeake, the corridor is significant because it serves as an emergency evacuation route for northeastern North Carolina, and also carries defense related traffic to the numerous military installations within the region.

The improvement of Dominion Boulevard, including the replacement of the existing 2-lane drawbridge over the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, (Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River) with a high-rise, fixed-span bridge is critical to Hampton Roads' overall transportation network. In addition to the bridge replacement, the project will also widen the existing roadway to four lanes from Cedar Road to Great Bridge Boulevard. Interchange improvements and roadway widening south of Cedar Road are also planned as future phases of the project. This project is listed within the regional and State Transportation Improvement Plans.

Project Name: United States Route 29 – Polo Grounds Road to Town Center Drive
Location: County of Albemarle, Virginia
Account: Surface Transportation Priorities
Amount: \$3,000,000

Funds will be used for a third lane northbound and southbound on United States Route 29 from the South Fork Rivanna River to north of its intersection with Hollymead Drive in an effort to improve traffic flow. These improvements would tie into a third lane recently constructed in each direction along United State Route 29 as part of major land development projects at the Hollymead Town Center. This section of road already experiences a high level of vehicle accidents due to the significant peaks and valleys on United State Route 29 through this area. This will only worsen as traffic increases and development occurs in this area in accord with the Albemarle County's Comprehensive Plan.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

Project Name: Downtown Multimodal Center
Location: City of Richmond, Virginia
Account: Bus and Bus Facilities
Amount: \$5,000,000

In order to reduce the amount of bus transit congestion in the City of Richmond, the Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) seeks funds for a Downtown Multimodal Center to provide a centrally located regional bus transfer facility for GRTC bus lines in downtown Richmond. GRTC proposes to reuse the second floor and surrounding site areas of the vacant Main Street Station Train Shed for the Multimodal Center. Additionally, the project will aim to preserve the historical landmark of the Main Street Train Station Shed.

Project Name: Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission Western Bus Facility
Location: County of Prince William, Virginia
Account: Bus and Bus Facilities
Amount: \$2,000,000

Funds will be used for the Potomac & Rappahannock Transit Commission (PRTC) Western Bus Facility project which would address inadequate storage capacity for the PRTC's current fleet of 122 buses. Even with modest expansions to PRTC Transit Center in Woodbridge, this facility will be fully deployed by the end of 2011 due to continuing service and fleet expansion. This project would address this problem with a second permanent bus yard ideally situated on the western side of PRTC's service area. Such a facility would address the problem of "deadheading," which currently occurs because the buses servicing the western areas are based at the Woodbridge facility and are therefore carrying no passengers while traveling between their storage yard and their routes on the west side of the service area. This new site will allow PRTC to maximize bus operations and make the best use of their transit resources.

Project Name: Naval Station Norfolk/Virginia Beach Light Rail Study
Location: Norfolk, Virginia
Account: Alternative Analysis
Amount: \$1,000,000

Funds will be used to study and determine the feasibility of extending Norfolk Light Rail to Naval Station Norfolk and Virginia Beach as part of a new fixed guide-way regional public transit network, increasing mobility options, contributing to energy and natural resource conservation, and strengthening the regional economy. The study will guide design, engineering and construction of extensions to the first light rail system in Virginia, now under construction in Norfolk.

Project Name: Capital and Preventive Maintenance Projects for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Location: Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun; Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Virginia
Account: New Starts
Amount: \$150,000,000

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) was created in 1966 primarily to serve the federal government. Many Metrorail stations were built at the request of the federal government and nearly half of all stations are located at federal facilities. Federal employees comprise 40% of WMATA's peak ridership, and millions of others use the WMATA system each year to visit the Nation's Capital or conduct business with the federal government. WMATA is also a critical component for ensuring continuity of federal government operations during an emergency, and federal recovery plans rely heavily on WMATA, which played a key role on September 11, 2001. The federal funds requested would be matched dollar-for-dollar by the supporting jurisdictions, resulting in approximately 7,140 jobs created or retained.

Project Name: Dulles Corridor Rail Project
Location: Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Washington, DC
Account: New Starts
Amount: \$85,000,000

A full funding grant agreement (FFGA) was signed by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, the project sponsor, for this project in March 2009.

The FFGA commits federal funding for this project, which first received federal appropriations in Fiscal Year 1999. This request reflects the amount designated in the FFGA funding schedule for FY 2010. The project sponsors are working with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Department of Transportation to bring the project closer to a reality. The Washington Dulles International Airport, which will be served by the project when fully built-out, and the surrounding high tech community are a driving force in the region's economy. Northern Virginia continues to be one of the fastest growing regions in the country and this project is essential to meeting the growing need for alternative modes of transportation.

Project Name: Virginia Railway Express Rolling Stock

Location: Virginia Railway Express, Alexandria, VA

Account: New Starts

Amount: \$5,000,000

Funds will be used to purchase new locomotives to replace locomotives that are more than ten years beyond their life expectancy. The new locomotives will improve on time performance for the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) and help VRE meet its double digit ridership growth since 2001. Funding for these new locomotives will not only benefit the immediate need for stronger and more reliable locomotives to service current ridership levels, but also allow for the expansion of service by permitting the Virginia Railway Express to lengthen existing trains. Also, VRE would be able to program critical service improvements, such as express trains, expansion to Gainesville-Haymarket, service to Fauquier and Spotsylvania Counties only if new, stronger locomotives are brought into the operation. The locomotive acquisition is listed within the regional and State Transportation Improvement Programs.

Project Name: Improvements to the Rosslyn Metro Station

Location: County of Arlington, Virginia

Account: Small Starts

Amount: \$2,000,000

The Rosslyn Metro station currently serves more than 34,000 people every day, making it one of the busiest stations in the Metrorail System, and the busiest station located outside the District of Columbia. As the prime mover of the federal workforce, with over 360,000 federal employees using the service and constituting over half of the riders during peak hours, the federal government has a special role to play in supporting Metrorail. The funds will be used to construct a new entrance at the station and three high-speed elevators to improve the capacity and ease of access to the station. The project also involves a new mezzanine with underground connecting passageway, station manager kiosk, fare collection equipment and all related infrastructure to support the new entrance. Finally, it includes street improvements to ensure a good level of service for bus and pedestrian traffic, an emergency stairway, and a new elevator for redundancy, which will reduce the need for shuttles from nearby stations if one elevator is out of service. The redundant elevator system will improve access and levels of service for people with disabilities, families with young children and seniors.

Project Name: Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit, Potomac Yard-Crystal City

Location: City of Alexandria and County of Arlington, Virginia

Account: Small Starts

Amount: \$2,000,000

The City of Alexandria and Arlington County are working together to plan Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) for Route 1 through the Potomac Yard-Crystal City corridor. This project will increase the ability of workers in this corridor (many of whom are employed by federal agencies) to use transit for commuting, thus reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. SAFETEA-LU has authorized \$1 million to assist with this project, but additional funds are needed. Funds will be used to design and construct a dedicated transit way along Route 1 for its portion of the new BRT. This project is listed within the regional and State Transportation Improvement Plans.

VIRGINIA HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT REQUESTS

Project Name: Appalachia Service Project
Location: City of Jonesville, Virginia
Account: Economic Development Initiative
Amount: \$400,000

The Appalachia Service Project (ASP) provides emergency home repair to economically disadvantaged families and individuals throughout Central Appalachia (VA, WV, TN and KY). In 2006, more than 2,200 volunteers entered 4 different counties throughout Virginia and provided emergency home repair on 67 homes for low-income Virginians. Such repairs include roof repair, septic system installation, electrical installations, wall repair, room construction, etc. In 2007, ASP repaired 72 homes in Virginia. This represents only 9% of the 755 VA homes applying for critical home repairs. The rising cost of building supplies hindered ASP's ability to increase the number of low-income families served in 2007. Funds will be used for building supplies and other expenses associated with expanding ASP's Home Repair Program in Jonesville, Virginia. Funding will allow ASP to provide critical home repair to a higher percentage of the 755 families needing these services.

Project Name: Appomattox Center for Business and Commerce Roadway and Utility Buildout
Location: County of Appomattox, Virginia
Account: Economic Development Initiative
Amount: \$2,000,000

Appomattox County, like other Southside Virginia localities, has historically been dependent on tobacco, textiles and furniture for economic sustainability. As these industries have vacated the region, the Appomattox County Economic Development Authority developed the 485-acre Appomattox Center for Business and Commerce to attract businesses to the County. Funds will be used to further develop the road and utility networks inside the Appomattox Center for Business and Commerce, the only public-owned industrial/business park in economically distressed Appomattox County. Specifically, funds will be used on construction of a new, more visible entrance route, public water lines -- including fire hydrants, elevated water storage tank, sanitary sewer lines, and underground electric service lines.

Project Name: Charles City County Public Library
Location: Charles City County, Virginia
Account: Economic Development Initiative

Amount: \$500,000

Funds will be used to construct a 16,429 sq. ft. library facility in Charles City County, Virginia which has been the only county in the Commonwealth of Virginia without a public library within its jurisdiction. Charles City is a small, historically underserved, rural county. The median family income is approximately \$6,000 below the state average and almost 10 percent of its population lives below the poverty line. County schools are improving, but consistently have ranked among the lowest in the state on standardized test scores. Among Virginia counties Charles City County ranks above average in fiscal stress and substantially above average in financial effort. The facility will serve the 7,200 residents of Charles City County and the 17,000 residents of New Kent County. The new facility will be located at Charles City Court House, the geographic center of the county where government offices, schools, the post office, bank and medical offices also are located. The public library will include a computer room with high speed internet access which is not available throughout most of the county and will serve the many County residents who do not own computers and who cannot afford internet service. Construction of a public library in Charles City represents a valuable expenditure of tax payer funds because libraries are engines of economic development.

Project Name: Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia**Location: City of Richmond, Virginia****Account: Economic Development Initiative****Amount: \$100,000**

Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc. (HOME) is a nonprofit corporation in Virginia founded in 1971 to fight discrimination in housing access. The funds from this request will be used to complete a two-year project to build a technology platform that will allow HOME to deliver its mission and expand its ability to provide services in all parts of Virginia. It is not economically feasible for HOME to open physical offices in every part of Virginia, but it is possible to expand and improve service delivery through the expanded use of technology. HOME will use the funds for web conferencing to provide classes to people who would not otherwise have access to them (because of location, disability, or other factors) on topics ranging from financial literacy to avoiding foreclosure. Funds will be used to upgrade the telephone system and upgrade and add new capacity to their website, which will allow them to attract more people, make it easier to navigate and be more interactive. It will enhance the educational experience for website users and their ability to reach out to those with housing needs, concerns, or interests. Funds will complete a database, which will allow HOME to track the needs and services for clients, expanding case-management effectiveness.

Project Name: Jefferson Park Neighborhood Revitalization**Location: City of Newport News, Virginia****Account: Economic Development Initiative****Amount: \$500,000**

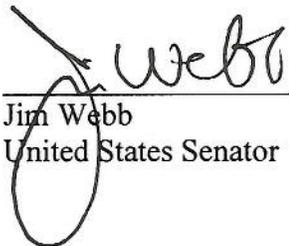
The City of Newport News, Hampton University and the Newport News Redevelopment & Housing Authority (NNRHA) formed a collaborative partnership to support the revitalization of a blighted, deteriorated neighborhood in the Southeast Community of the city known as Jefferson Park. The Collaborative Community Revitalization Team worked for several months to develop a strategy to remove blight and improve the stability of the target area by engaging the community in this urban

renewal project. Funding will be used for acquisition, demolition and relocation activities, and capital improvements of dilapidated housing. Dilapidated housing stock removed and residents displaced by the demolition activities will be relocated to safe, sanitary housing. The capital improvements will provide infrastructure to attract retail and business development. This will provide employment opportunities for residents in an area where the unemployment rate is at 8.1%, which is higher than the state and national averages.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that neither I, nor my immediate family, has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressional directed spending items requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

I appreciate your consideration of these important initiatives and look forward to working closely with you on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding these requests please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Jim Webb
United States Senator