



## **Senator Houck Reports From Richmond**

**January 22, 2007**

The deadline for proposing new legislation has passed. As a member of the Senate Finance and Transportation Committees, I am in a position to work on many facets of the transportation crisis impacting the Commonwealth. After last session, I know voters have high expectations for the General Assembly. I believe that we have learned from those lengthy disputes and there is a real enthusiasm for compromise. Effective multi-impact solutions to transportation are among the highest priorities in my legislative agenda.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss several of the proposed legislation:

***Senate Bill 1199-*** This legislation will refine the scope of responsibility for the existing intermodal office within the office of the Secretary of Transportation. It provides a clear oversight role for the office in the development of environmental reviews for major corridors and ensures that major planning studies adequately consider all modes and potential solutions.

***Senate Bill 1200-*** At present, VDOT charges fees for each review it conducts of local highway improvement applications and plans. This bill would limit those fees to no more than \$1,000 per review easing the financial burdens on localities.

***Senate Bill 1201-*** This bill will dedicate existing taxes from auto insurance premiums to the Priority Transportation Fund. It will ensure that those revenues cannot be raided or allocated for other state programs.

**Senate Bill 1110-** Local service districts will be granted additional power over road construction and maintenance. Districts can exercise these powers regardless of VDOT jurisdiction.

In other areas impacting the 17<sup>th</sup> District, I am introducing the following:

**Senate Bill 998-** It creates mechanisms for enforcing regulations as well as eliminating private water systems that continue to under-perform.

**Senate Bill 1112-** It makes permanent reporting health care data information to Virginia Health Information (VHI). VHI collects health care data for analysis while working with the Department of Health to provide more cost-effective and higher quality healthcare.

Should you have any questions or comments about this legislation or other issues, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at my office via telephone at (804) 698-7517, via e-mail at [district17@sov.state.va.us](mailto:district17@sov.state.va.us), or via regular mail at P.O. Box 396, Richmond, VA 23218.