

Senator Houck Working For Transportation Solutions

The Senate of Virginia has passed a comprehensive statewide transportation plan which includes Senator Edd Houck's initiative to increase transportation dollars for the Fredericksburg metropolitan area by approximately \$42 million a year. The statewide portion of the plan will provide approximately \$700 million dollars per year in new transportation revenues.

"While it is important that the General Assembly pass a statewide transportation plan and regional plans for Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia, we must not forget about other areas throughout the Commonwealth, like the Fredericksburg area, that are experiencing tremendous growth. This takes a step toward having a regional component for Fredericksburg to sustain our local economy," Houck noted.

Specifically, the amendment states that any metropolitan area containing an aggregate of at least 8.5 million daily vehicle miles traveled in the area will be subject to a one percent sales tax increase to be used solely for local transportation projects. Food will not be subject to the increase. According to the Senate Finance Committee staff research, a one percent increase in the sales tax would cost about \$133 per year for a family with an income of \$60,000.

The Fredericksburg metropolitan area is comprised of the City of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County, and Stafford County. In addition to the Fredericksburg area, the Richmond Metropolitan Area also will be impacted by this initiative.

Senator Houck is currently in his 25th year representing the 17th District in the State Senate. As a member of the Senate Finance and Transportation Committees, he is playing a key role in implementing a much-needed transportation solution for the Commonwealth.