



## The Cost of Doing Nothing

The one thing that all Virginians should keep in mind when it comes to funding the Commonwealth's transportation system is that doing nothing will cost us all a lot.

If the General Assembly doesn't address the transportation funding crisis, this is what we will have to look forward to **in the next year-**

- Virginians will waste another 260 million gallons of gas due to being stuck in traffic.
- The average Virginian will again pay more than \$900 in congestion costs.
- Due to inflation, the cost to repair our 1,746 structurally deficient bridges will increase by more than \$200 million.
- Northern Virginians will waste another two weeks stuck in congestion.
- Local governments will see their funding for urban and secondary roads decline by more than 44%.
- At a time when Virginia's roadways claimed the lives of 1,026 people last year (which was triple the Commonwealth's murder rate), we will have declining funding for safety improvements.
- Hampton Roads residents will still live with the fact that if a natural disaster hits, they are looking at an estimated evacuation time of more than 24 hours.
- VDOT will eliminate or delay 195 projects that were scheduled for construction.

Facts like these truly help put the Commonwealth's transportation funding needs into perspective. We simply cannot afford to wait any longer for a long-term, dedicated, statewide, sustainable, multi-modal transportation funding solution.

With our population, miles traveled on our roadways and the cost of building transportation projects increasing every year, it will never be cheaper than it is right now to make an investment in the future of Virginia's continually aging infrastructure.

In fact, Virginia hasn't seen a significant increase in transportation funding since 1986. Can you think of anything else that has such a major impact on every Virginian's life that hasn't been updated in more than 20 years? Why do we let our transportation system continue to decline without any new revenues?

We all need to take a step back and look at the needs of our state and the fact that our transportation system is crumbling around us. Even though it may be unpopular, we have to address this issue before it is too late.

It is absolutely critical that we reach out to our local legislators, the Governor and members of the media to let them know that we are in favor of a statewide transportation solution. After all, our transportation system is not going to fix itself.