

**Virginia Conservation Network Talking Points for SJ 260**  
**January 15, 2025**

## **SUPPORT SJ260**

Topic: JLARC study of VDOT maintenance funding and practices

Patron: Senator Danica Roem

### **OVERVIEW:**

Directs JLARC to comprehensively study and report on VDOT's funding resources, allocation policies, and practices for maintaining Virginia's surface transportation infrastructure, both within the VDOT system and for the urban localities that receive highway maintenance payments from VDOT.

### **REASONS TO SUPPORT:**

- Prioritizing the adequate maintenance of existing highway assets over new construction projects is an honored best practice.
- Since JLARC's last such report in January 2002, Virginia's highway, bridge, and park-and-ride assets have grown substantially, and its active transportation and transit-rider assets have become increasingly prominent, especially in urban and suburban localities.
- Due to cost inflation and the additional assets now being generated by the three regional transportation authorities, VDOT's available funds and current allocation practices to maintain surface transportation infrastructure may be insufficient to keep Virginia's transportation assets in suitable repair.
- The maintenance needs of VDOT's paths and sidewalks would be examined, including periodic pavement condition assessments, to enable preventive maintenance, resurfacing, or replacement, as appropriate, on a timely basis.
- Highway maintenance allocations to the VDOT districts and to non-VDOT localities would be studied to estimate the annual maintenance payments needed to suitably maintain all street and highway assets in VDOT's statewide inventory and to ensure that maintenance funding constraints do not preclude the installation of life-saving traffic control devices.
- The study would also explore options, including partnership opportunities, to proactively provide better scheduled maintenance and limited winter maintenance of VDOT paths, sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit-rider amenities.

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