



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

DAVID S. EKERN, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

April 6, 2007

County Administrators

Dear County Administrator,

Over the last year the Virginia Department of Transportation has been working on a cooperative project with Stafford County and James City County to identify and analyze opportunities which exist for counties through the current devolution statute (Virginia Code Section 33.1-84.1) and to outline key considerations associated with any devolution option. This effort has resulted in the *Guide to County Assumption of Secondary Roads (Devolution Guidebook)* and a companion computer model, *Feasibility Model for Secondary System Assumption by Virginia Counties*.

The *Devolution Guidebook* explores many issues that a county may want to consider as it examines opportunities offered through the devolution process. The Guidebook assesses a range of options; from assumption of only one portion of the program, such as construction or maintenance; to taking on full responsibility and operational ownership of the secondary road system in the county. The accompanying *Model* allows a county to simulate various scenarios in order to determine programmatic costs for any or all of the devolution options as well as program delivery options. It is important to note that the Model offers a projection of county costs based on specific criteria but does not specifically represent payments that a county might receive.

The *Devolution Guidebook* and *Model* are valuable tools and can be accessed and downloaded through the Local Assistance Division *Devolution* web page which can be found at www.virginiadot.org/business/local-assistance.asp under "Recent Updates."

In addition to the *Devolution Guidebook* and *Model*, our consultant for this effort has agreed to offer any interested county additional consultation on the use of the model. Further information on how to access these services from the consultant is also available on the website.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact your local Residency office or Bernie Schmelz (804-786-2595) of my staff. We hope that you and your Board of Supervisors find this effort as interesting and exciting as we have and find these tools useful as you evaluate your options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Estes".

Michael A. Estes, P.E.
Director, Local Assistance Division

cc: Virginia Association of Counties

