



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

DAVID S. EKERN, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

August 20, 2007

County Administrators/City and Town Managers

RE: Economic Development Access Program Guide

The 2005 General Assembly directed the Virginia Department of Transportation to work with local, regional and state economic development agencies to revise the definition of businesses and industries that qualified for the Industrial Access Roads Program. VDOT's Local Assistance Division, which administers the program, coordinated the efforts of a stakeholder group that addressed and responded to the General Assembly's direction. In its discussions, the group identified other issues relevant to the program and made recommendations for implementation of additional changes that would allow more flexibility.

Both the *Code of Virginia* and the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB's) program policy were amended as a result of the report to the General Assembly. The program is now known as the *Economic Development Access Program*. To document the adopted changes and provide current information to localities considering use of the program's funding, the Local Assistance Division has recently completed an updated *Economic Development Access Program Guide*. This document may be found on the Local Assistance Division's website at <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/local-assistance.asp>.

The most significant changes in the program include:

- Expanding the list of qualifying establishments to include research and development facilities, regional service centers, corporate headquarters "or other facilities that meet the basic employer criteria"
- Redefining adequate access as a road from the primary entrance to the site to the nearest adequate publicly maintained road
- Removal of language that excluded the eligibility of certain construction items. This was intended to ensure compliance with the CTB bicycle and pedestrian accommodation policy and allows more flexibility in accommodating localities' current industrial or business park designs.

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- Allowing 100% credit for capital outlay of qualifying establishments on all eligible parcels in industrial or business parks. Formerly, capital outlay was pro-rated according to the location of each parcel along the access road.
- Adding the new CTB policy provision that affords localities an opportunity to recoup up to half of the funds that were returned to VDOT because the locality could not document sufficient investment within the initial 5-year bond period. Should the locality establish investment within 24 months immediately following the expiration of the original 5-year bonded period, the CTB may approve a return of funds.

We hope this guide will be helpful and look forward to working with your locality should you decide to use the Economic Development Access Roads Program as a resource. If you have questions, please contact Hugh Adams by phone at (804) 786-2744 or by email at Hugh.Adams@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Estes, P. E.

Director, Local Assistance Division

Cc: Virginia Association of Counties
Virginia Municipal League
Virginia Department of Business Assistance
Virginia Economic Development Partnership