



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1401 EAST BROAD STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

**DAVID S. EKERN, P.E.**  
COMMISSIONER

October 8, 2009

To: City and Town Managers

RE: Urban Construction Initiative (First Cities) – Certification Program

As a part of VDOT's continued commitment to partner with local governments to more effectively deliver projects, we are pleased to announce the implementation of Virginia's first local certification program. The Urban Construction Initiative Certification Program will go into effect November 1<sup>st</sup>.

This program, developed in conjunction with local government and the Federal Highway Administration, has its genesis in the Commissioner's policy on the Delivery of Locally Administered Programs and Projects. The Commissioner's policy dated February 2008 set in motion the development of a certification program that encourages qualified localities to take additional authority over their transportation programs. Once certified, local governments are responsible for meeting state and federal requirements and providing certifications at major milestones to confirm they have done so. These certifications are accompanied by streamlined oversight and stewardship provided by the Department. Key to the success of this program is the eligibility requirements and processes put in place associated with a locality being certified and ongoing compliance/assurance reviews by the Department.

At this time, localities that have been within the Urban Construction Initiative for at least one year are eligible for certification. As we build on this program's success, we hope to expand this concept to other areas. Information on the Urban Construction Initiative, including guidance and a brief presentation on the Certification Program, is available on our website at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/local-assistance.asp>. The Commissioner's Policy and other resources for local governments can also be found on this website.

We are excited to share this and welcome your thoughts and questions. Please feel free to contact me by phone at 804-786-2745 or via email at [Michael.Estes@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Michael.Estes@VDOT.Virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

*//signature on file//*

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

cc: Virginia Municipal League  
Federal Highway Administration