



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1401 EAST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

David S. Ekern, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

February 28, 2008

The Honorable Pierce R. Homer
Secretary of Transportation
Virginia Department of Transportation
1111 East Broad Street
Room 3054
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Secretary Homer:

Attached is my Interim Action Report regarding the February 12, 2008 icing event at the Springfield Interchange in Northern Virginia. I have conducted an extensive review of the events surrounding the event including the weather conditions, the way VDOT planned and mobilized for the event, and the techniques VDOT and other agencies used in responding to the event.

The reconstruction of this event and lessons learned provides a way to strengthen winter emergency response and ensure that the most effective planning and response protocols are in place statewide. In the course of this review, I have identified nineteen immediate action items that are being undertaken to address the issues associated with the VDOT response to the February 12 icing event.

This interim review and report are first steps. I am conducting additional reviews and meetings with VDOT staff in other districts; the Virginia State Police; key staff from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and other agencies; and citizens will help form the basis of a longer range action plan to ensure that VDOT is fully prepared for effective response to winter events throughout the Commonwealth. Further recommendations for longer term improvements and additional statewide changes will be documented and an action plan should be available by April 15, 2008.

I am confident that the actions taken to this point and additional actions over the longer term will put VDOT in the best position possible to provide effective snow and ice emergency preparation and response the rest of this year and in the winter seasons to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David S. Ekern".

David Ekern, P.E.
Commissioner