



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.  
Commissioner

1221 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 482-5818

December 1, 2025

The Honorable Sheppard Miller III  
Secretary of Transportation  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

The Honorable Stefanie K. Taillon  
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas  
Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations  
Committee  
Virginia General Assembly  
P.O. Box 700  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23705

The Honorable Luke E. Torian  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Virginia General Assembly  
4222 Fortuna Plaza, Suite 659  
Dumfries, Virginia 22025

The Honorable Lamont Bagby  
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
Virginia General Assembly  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

The Honorable Karrie K. Delaney  
Chair, House Transportation Committee  
Virginia General Assembly  
P.O. Box 231023  
Centerville, Virginia 20120

The Honorable Kelly K. Convirs-Fowler  
Vice Chair, Joint Subcommittee on  
Recurrent Flooding  
Virginia General Assembly  
P.O. Box 6769  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

Secretaries and Members of the Virginia General Assembly:

On behalf of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), I am submitting this update required by Item 437 (D) of Chapter 725 of the 2025 Acts of Assembly ("Appropriation Act"). In 2019, VDOT's Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC) entered into an agreement with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) for a five-year study to develop a strategy for understanding and addressing sea level rise, land subsidence, and recurrent flooding impacts on road infrastructure (the "VIMS Study"). The language of the Appropriation Act, which was first enacted as Item 446 (F) of Chapter 552 of the 2021 Special Session I, directs VDOT, with the assistance of VIMS, to provide an annual update on the status of the "Coastal Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Inundation Study" including: (i) progress on identification of at-risk rural, suburban and urban infrastructure; (ii) planning and options to mitigate or eliminate the identified risks; and (iii) a report on remaining work and an estimated time frame for completion, issues addressed in the VIMS Study.

WE KEEP VIRGINIA MOVING

The Honorable W. Sheppard Miller III  
The Honorable Stefanie K. Taillon  
The Honorable L. Louise Lucas  
The Honorable Luke E. Torian  
The Honorable Lamont Bagsby  
The Honorable Karrie K. Delaney  
The Honorable Kelly K. Convirs-Fowler  
December 1, 2025  
Page 2

The VIMS Study was completed in September, 2024, and the final findings are described in VDOT's [Annual Update, Coastal Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Inundation Study, December 2023 – December 2024](#) ("December 2024 Inundation Study Update), which summarizes the overall progress of the VIMS Study through its conclusion, explains significant findings since the previous update in December 2023, and identifies how data from the VIMS Study is being incorporated into [VDOT's statewide resilience planning efforts](#) to manage identified risks to transportation infrastructure. Thus, the December 2024 Inundation Study Update, one of four annual updates, served as the final status update for the VIMS and Appropriation Act studies and no further updates are available.

VDOT recommends that Item 437 D be removed from the upcoming Appropriation Act for the 2026 General Assembly Session. The item is no longer needed in the budget.

If you have any questions regarding this update, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Christopher Swanson, Environmental Division Director, by emailing him at [chris.swanson@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:chris.swanson@VDOT.Virginia.gov) or by calling 804-786-6839.

Sincerely,



Stephen C. Brich, P.E.  
Commissioner of Highways