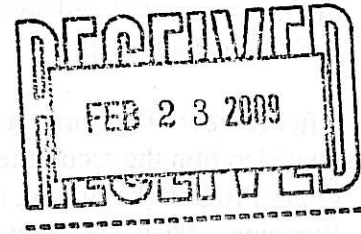




COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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



David S. Ekern, P.E.
COMMISSIONER

February 18, 2009

Billie Campbell, Interim Executive Director
Thomas Jefferson PDC
PO Box 1505
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dear Mr. Campbell:

On July 17, 2008, I had an opportunity to meet with you at the VAPDC Transportation Committee meeting to present a summary of the discussion sessions held with PDCs throughout the state to discuss how to improve the Rural Transportation Planning Program. Part of the presentation included future funding scenarios whereby the \$200,000 currently directed to the Rural Transportation Planning Grant Program could be redirected within the Rural Transportation Planning Program to the Rural Assistance Program.

These financial scenarios were:

Scenario 1 – Each PDC receives a base of \$48,000 + (Rural Population Factor x \$200,000). The population factor is based on the 2000 Census Data and represents each PDC's percentage of the statewide rural population. Rural population is defined as the area outside of the MPO study area.

Scenario 2 – Each PDC receives a base of \$48,000 + (2007 Rural VMT Factor x \$200,000). The 2007 VMT Factor is based on the latest published traffic data by VDOT's Traffic Engineering Division and represents each PDC's percentage of the statewide Rural VMT. Rural VMT is defined as the area outside of the MPO study area.

Scenario 3 – Each PDC to receive a base of \$48,000 + \$10,000. Under this scenario all rural PDCs receive the same increase in funding.

You were asked as a committee to suggest a preferred scenario and forward your recommendation to my attention. On July 23, 2008, I received a letter from Jeff Walker, VAPDC Transportation Committee Chair, stating that VAPDC outgoing and incoming Board

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of Directors voted and approved the support of Scenario 3 (all rural PDCs receive a base of \$48,000 + \$10,000).

After review of all three scenarios, in light of the current financial atmosphere and taking in consideration the recommendation of the VAPDC, VDOT has decided to suspend the Rural Grant Program beginning in FY-10, and redirect the \$200,000 to the Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program to help fund priority efforts as defined in the PDCs annual work plans.

This will in effect suspend the Rural Transportation Planning Grant Program beginning in FY-2010. This program will remain inactive until it is determined appropriate to reactivate the program. The increase in funds for the Rural Transportation Planning Assistance Program is expected to continue beyond FY-10 regardless of the future active status of the Rural Transportation Planning Grant Program.

This will increase each rural PDCs annual federal funding by \$10,000. Beginning in FY-10, each PDC will receive \$58,000 and provide a \$14,500 local match for a total of \$72,500 for rural planning activities in their region.

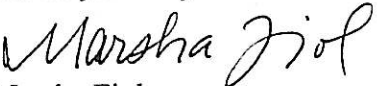
	VDOT (80%) SPR Funds	PDC Match (20%)	TOTAL
FY-09	\$48,000	\$12,000	\$60,000
FY-10	\$58,000	\$14,500	\$72,500

Please prepare your FY-10 budget accordingly.

Due to the current economic conditions, the decision was also made to discontinue the grant process for Rural Transportation Planning Grant Applications for FY-09.

VDOT is committed to ensuring the continued success of the Rural Transportation Planning Program. We must maintain a dialogue and commitment so the we continuously find and implement ways to improve the program. If you should have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact myself at Marsha.Fiol@VDOT.Virginia.gov or (804) 786-2985 or Darrel S. Johnson, TMPD Rural Planning Program Manager, at Darrel.Johnson@VDOT.Virginia.gov or (804)371-8868. We look forward to working with you.

Thank you for your continued support of Virginia's Rural Transportation Planning Program.


Marsha Fiol
State Transportation Planner