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HOUSE BILL NO. 1995

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled January 13, 2009

A BILL to amend and reenact § 15.2-4838.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to use of revenues received by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

Patrons—Bulova; Senator: Petersen

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 15.2-4838.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 15.2-4838.1. Use of certain revenues by the Authority.

A. All moneys received by the Authority and the proceeds of bonds issued pursuant to § 15.2-4839 shall be used by the Authority solely for transportation purposes benefiting those counties and cities that are embraced by the Authority.

B. Forty percent of the revenues shall be distributed on a pro rata basis, with each locality's share being the total of such fees and taxes assessed or imposed by the Authority and received by the Authority that are generated or attributable to the locality divided by the total of such fees and taxes assessed or imposed by the Authority and received by the Authority. Of the revenues distributed pursuant to this subsection (i) in the Cities of *Alexandria, Fairfax and* Falls Church ~~and Alexandria~~ and the County of Arlington the first 50% shall be used solely for urban or secondary road construction and improvements and for public transportation purposes, and (ii) in the remaining localities, the first 50% shall be used solely for urban or secondary road construction and improvements. The remainder, as determined solely by the applicable locality, shall be used either for additional urban or secondary road construction; for other transportation capital improvements which have been approved by the most recent long range transportation plan adopted by the Authority; or for public transportation purposes. Solely for purposes of calculating the 40% of revenues to be distributed pursuant to this subsection, the revenue generated pursuant to § 58.1-3221.3 and Article 8 (§ 15.2-2317 et seq.) of Chapter 22 of this title by the counties and cities embraced by the Authority shall be considered revenue of the Authority. None of the revenue distributed by this subsection may be used to repay debt issued before July 1, 2007. Each locality shall provide annually to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority sufficient documentation as required by the Authority showing that the funds distributed under this subsection were used as required by this subsection.

C. The remaining 60% of the revenues from such sources shall be used by the Authority solely for transportation projects and purposes that benefit the counties and cities embraced by the Authority.

1. The revenues under this subsection shall be used first to pay any debt service owing on any bonds issued pursuant to § 15.2-4839, and then as follows:

a. The next $50 million each fiscal year shall be distributed to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and shall be used for capital improvements benefiting the area embraced by the Authority for WMATA's transit service (Metro). The Authority shall first make use of that portion of such annual distribution as may be necessary under the requirements of federal law for the payment of federal funds to WMATA, but only if the matching federal funds are exclusive of and in addition to the amount of other federal funds appropriated for such purposes and are in an amount not less than the amount of such funds appropriated in the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2007;

For each year after 2018 any portion of the amount distributed pursuant to this subsection may be used for mass transit improvements in Prince William County;

b. The next $25 million each fiscal year shall be distributed to the Virginia Railway Express for operating and capital improvements, including but not limited to track lease payments, construction of parking, dedicated rail on the Fredericksburg line, rolling stock, expanded service in Prince William County, and service as may be needed as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's action regarding Fort Belvoir.

2. All transportation projects undertaken by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority shall be completed by private contractors accompanied by performance measurement standards, and all contracts shall contain a provision granting the Authority the option to terminate the contract if contractors do not meet such standards. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any locality may provide engineering services or right-of-way acquisition for any project with its own forces. The Authority shall avail itself of the strategies permitted under the Public-Private Transportation Act (§ 56-556 et seq.) whenever feasible and advantageous. The Authority is independent of any state or local entity, including the Virginia

Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), but the Authority, VDOT and CTB shall consult with one another to avoid duplication of efforts and, at the option of the Authority, may combine efforts to complete specific projects. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at the request of the Authority, VDOT may provide the Authority with engineering services or right-of-way acquisition for the project with its own forces. When determining what projects to construct under this subsection, the Authority shall base its decisions on the combination that (i) equitably distributes the funds throughout the localities, and (ii) constructs projects that move the most people or commercial traffic in the most cost-effective manner, and on such other factors as approved by the Authority.

3. All revenues deposited to the credit of the Authority shall be used for projects benefiting the localities embraced by the Authority, with each locality's total long-term benefits being approximately equal to the total of the fees and taxes received by the Authority that are generated by or attributable to the locality divided by the total of such fees and taxes received by the Authority.

D. For road construction and improvements pursuant to subsection B, the Department of Transportation may, on a reimbursement basis, provide the locality with planning, engineering, right-of-way, and construction services for projects funded in whole by the revenues provided to the locality by the Authority.