

10101567D

HOUSE BILL NO. 779

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 12, 2010

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 33.1-13.03, relating to evaluation of transportation projects in the Northern Virginia highway construction district; reports.*

Patrons—LeMunyon, Cole, Comstock, Hugo, Kory and Rust

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 33.1-13.03 as follows:**

§ 33.1-13.03. Evaluation of transportation projects in Northern Virginia highway construction district; reports.

The Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, shall evaluate significant transportation projects for the Northern Virginia highway construction district, including both highway and mass transit projects, and provide an objective, quantitative rating for each project according to (i) the total amount of reduction in traffic congestion regionally on major highways in the Northern Virginia highway construction district, and separately (ii) the amount of reduction in traffic congestion expected to be achieved per dollar cost of the project. Such evaluation shall rely on computer simulation using methods currently and customarily employed in transportation modeling. The Department of Transportation shall publicize its findings on its website and in reports to the Committees on Transportation of the House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia, and update such findings at least annually, with the first report to be made no later than January 1, 2011. Each such report shall also note any particular order in which projects could be completed to:

1. Reduce congestion as quickly as possible during typically congested periods in the Northern Virginia highway construction district; and

2. Maximize regional mobility in the event of a homeland security emergency in the national capital area in three to five plausible scenarios, including a general evacuation of Washington, D.C., and the adjacent area of Virginia, loss of one or more existing Potomac River crossings, and loss of one or more Metro lines in Virginia.

For purposes of this section, the significant transportation projects to be evaluated shall comprise at least 50 such projects, without regard to funding source, and include but not be limited to:

a. Projects included in the version of the constrained long range plan in effect when the evaluation is made, plus additional projects in the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's TransAction 2030 plan and subsequent updates; and

b. Other highway, rail, and bus projects that could make a significant impact on mobility in the region, to include additional Potomac River crossings west and south of Washington, D.C., and extension of Metro's Orange Line, bus rapid transit on Interstate Route 66, and the planned Metro Silver Line to Loudoun County.

INTRODUCED

HB779