

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB531

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Marsden

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Northern Virginia Transportation District; Long-range planning.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation requires the Department of Transportation (VDOT), in coordination with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), to evaluate all significant transportation projects in and near the Northern Virginia Transportation District, including both highway and transit projects. The evaluation is to occur to the extent that funds are available for such a purpose. The evaluation is to provide a rating for each project according to the degree that congestion is reduced and regional mobility is improved in the event of a homeland security emergency. The CTB is to consider the ratings in the allocation of transportation funds. The legislation mandates the evaluation to include at least 25 projects, without regard to funding source, from specified Northern Virginia transportation plans. VDOT is to complete the evaluation at least once every four years and publish interim and final ratings for each project on its website starting January 1, 2013.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation would require the evaluation of transportation projects in Northern Virginia, which would require significant modeling of transportation projects. The costs related to the evaluation cannot be accurately identified at this time. Only a tentative estimate of the fiscal impact can be determined at this time, based on VDOT's experience with other evaluations that are similar in approach but smaller in scope. VDOT's Interstate 66 multimodal planning study has a budget of \$2.5 million. The NVTA Transaction 2030 planning study cost nearly \$1.0 million, although that study has a smaller scope than the study proposed in this legislation. Based on those studies, VDOT estimates that the initial evaluation and rating specified by the bill could cost up to \$3 million and take approximately 24 months to conduct. Subsequent evaluations conducted every four years would cost approximately \$1.5 million.

The costs associated with the bill can be absorbed within existing appropriation, although a reprioritization of funding from other programs may be required. The legislation states that the evaluations are to be conducted only to the extent that funds are available.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Commonwealth Transportation Board, Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, local governments in Northern Virginia

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: Similar to HB599 S1.

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