

Interstate 73 Coalition

A coordinated, mutually beneficial campaign for the Roanoke Valley and Southside Virginia



May 11, 2015

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The Coalition Will Raise Awareness and Generate Action

- ❑ Federal level: educate and persuade Members of Congress about the project and its benefits; multi-state effort; Virginia delegation, key relevant committee leaders, members and staff; TIFIA and TIGER; coordinate with the Federal Highway Administration
- ❑ State level: educate and persuade Governors, members of the General Assembly, CTB about the economic development advantages of connecting another interstate highway in the Roanoke Valley and building it through Southside into the Carolinas
- ❑ Develop and implement a communications plan that will raise awareness of the project and its benefits - connectivity, economic impact, job creation, safety, tourism growth - and generate action towards construction of I-73

Federal Affairs Opportunities

- ❑ Current highway reauthorization expires May 31; in August the Highway Trust Fund will run out of money
- ❑ Federal gas tax (18.4 cents p/g) has not changed since 1993
- ❑ Federal Highway Trust Fund generates \$32 billion per year, federal transportation spending is about \$50 billion

- ❑ G.R.O.W. America Act (Obama Administration bill)
 - ❑ 6 year, \$478 billion
 - ❑ Funding Plan: 14% transition tax on the \$2 Trillion of untaxed foreign corporate earnings
 - ❑ \$317 billion for highways and bridges; \$115 billion for mass transit

- ❑ Congress
 - ❑ House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee is holding hearings to build a record for a big, multi-year bill
 - ❑ Senate EPW is meeting to hammer out a bill; no mark-ups yet
 - ❑ Goal: Critical to maintain or enhance eligibility for TIFIA
 - ❑ Goal: Increase annual caps on TIGER grants, currently \$500M

Commonwealth Challenges and Opportunities

- ❑ Region Needs Solidarity of Purpose; must collaborate for mutual benefit
- ❑ Need buy-in, support and leadership from Office of the Governor
- ❑ Commonwealth Transportation Board and the General Assembly have to be fully-educated about, and convinced of, the economic development benefits
- ❑ Aggressive pursuit of Federal, State and Public-Private Partnerships
- ❑ All revenue sources need to be examined and a plausible financing plan has to be agreed upon; this takes time