



Transportation & Technology Advisory Committee
Tuesday October 18, 2011 10:00 a.m.
General Assembly Building, 6th Floor, Speaker's Conference Room

- **Call to Order; Roll Call**

The chair called the meeting to order.

- **Remote Emissions Testing Technology**

Angie Jenkins, Director of Policy at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, recapped the results of a stakeholders meeting that was held at the request of the House Committee on Transportation to review the vehicle emissions inspection program. She informed the advisory committee that the stakeholders group issued no recommendations with regard to remote emissions testing.

Bruce Keeney of The Keeney Group presented to the advisory committee on the issues and concerns held by station owners throughout Northern Virginia regarding the implementation of remote emissions testing. The presentation is available on the JCOTS website.

The advisory committee held a discussion with advocates on both sides of the issue, including public comments, and ultimately concluded that no recommendation would be issued to the full Commission. The subject of remote emissions testing will be addressed by JCOTS during their final meeting on December 7, 2011.

- **Distracted Driving**

Staff presented the language of two different versions of a distracted driving bill that the committee members had requested at their previous meeting. One bill draft would make distracted driving a “primary” traffic infraction, which would allow police officers to stop offending drivers for operating a moving motor vehicle while engaged in other activities at the time. The other bill draft would require the offending driver to have committed a traffic infraction or other criminal offense while operating a moving motor vehicle at the time of the distraction in order to be charged with a “distracted driving” offense. The committee members discussed whether the language in either bill draft would be too general for an officer to know whether someone was actually distracted. The chair opened the discussion to public comments, which were provided.

At the conclusion of their discussion, the committee members voted to amend the current text messaging ban in § 46.2-1078.1 from a “secondary” offense to a “primary” offense. The committee also determined that the larger issue of driving while “distracted” requires further study.