

# **THOMAS JEFFERSON INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY**

**9035 Golden Sunset Lane · Springfield, Virginia 22153**

Michael W. Thompson, Chairman/President  
703/440-9447 (o)  
703/455-1531 (fax)  
info@thomasjeffersoninst.org

## **Jefferson Institute Commends the Governor for Confronting the Transportation Funding Issue**

Michael Thompson, President of the Thomas Jefferson Institute, the state's premier state-focused public policy foundation, made the following Statement on Governor McDonnell's Transportation Funding Proposal:

*Governor McDonnell should be commended for confronting the transportation maintenance/funding issue in a creative way that has now focused attention on this festering problem.*

*A transportation revenue stream that will grow with the economy makes sense. And direct user fees, such as car registration fees, should certainly be part of any reasonable transportation plan. Tying these user fees to direct transportation costs is important.*

*Clearly the current static gas tax is not keeping up with the transportation needs here in Virginia. The Governor's idea for moving transportation funding to sales taxes will automatically grow available transportation dollars with the inflation rate. The burden of those sales taxes should remain the same on the taxpayers as the economy improves. However, there is a legitimate debate surrounding this proposal and it needs to be thoroughly discussed.*

*There are several ideas on how to "improve upon" this proposal by our Governor from fair minded people in our state legislature and outside of elective office. All realize that Virginia simply can't sit back and let the current system run its course. If we do that then the transportation problem that we confront, especially in maintenance, will only get worse and the remedy more difficult.*

*Funding transportation is a difficult issue that has been avoided for far too long. Governor McDonnell has now brought this issue to the forefront of the public debate and those of good faith who have other ideas need to provide alternatives that can become reality. People of good faith should work with the Governor and others to come to a reasonable transportation solution.*

*The serious problem of funding our transportation maintenance must to be confronted head on and resolved. The Governor's proposal does that and hopefully the General Assembly will come to a solution that can be supported by a large majority of that body and by our taxpaying citizens.*

*The Thomas Jefferson Institute looks forward to offering ideas and perspectives on this issue over the course of the legislative session.*

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