



## 2018-2019 State Legislative Agenda September 2018

**Broadband:** Significant areas of four of the region's five jurisdictions do not have adequate broadband availability. According to the FCC's 2016 Broadband Progress Report, our region has nearly 20,000 people with no access to broadband. The lack of broadband and the high-speed internet continues to hamper economic prosperity, agricultural productivity, and the ability to create high-paying jobs.

- Financially support expanded broadband capabilities in underserved and rural areas.
- Strengthen local authority to deploy broadband directly or through public-private partnerships.

**Children's Services Act:** Virginia Children's Services Act consolidates funding sources and coordinating treatment services for children with severe and significant needs. This care coordination has proven successful in both meeting needs for individual children, and in proving that state and local responsibility and cost sharing can and does work.

- Require that any changes in program statutes, administrative policy, or implementation guidance benefit those served and respects the shared-cost relationship of the Commonwealth and localities.
- Require cost savings decisions show savings for both funding partners.
- Continue to vest responsibility for ensuring proper service provision, licensure, and cost management with the local Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) and the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT).
- Allow use of CSA funds for proven, cost-effective community-based services in any educational setting during the school day, including private day schools.
- Provide additional State support for community based therapeutic public day schools.

**Proffers and Impact Fees:** A proffer is a voluntary proposal by an applicant for a property rezoning to mitigate the impacts of the development they propose to undertake. In 2016 the law regulating proffers was significantly rewritten. Some of these changes added substantial uncertainty for local governments.

- Approve SB208 (Stuart) that clarifies many ambiguities in the new law by repealing G.S. 15.2-2328.
- Mandate that proffers/impact fees are not voluntary and must be paid by the property owner.

**Smart Scale:** Changes continue to be needed to make fund allocations more representative of and responsive to highway needs. Recent studies by the Fredericksburg Area MPO (FAMPO) show substantial needs are not accurately and completely reflected in Smart Scale scoring. This hampers the region's ability to effectively address pressing transportation needs.

- Include traffic data for all seven days of the week when scoring potential Smart Scale projects.
- Use Total Cost instead of Smart Scale Request Cost when scoring projects.
- Change the accessibility standard for Smart Scale from 45 minutes to 60 minutes.
- Restrict High Priority project funding for both highway and transit projects to those on a Corridor of Statewide Significance.

**Taxing Authority:** Currently Commonwealth cities and counties have different levels and types of taxing authority, and even some variation within each type of jurisdiction.

- Grant counties equal taxing authority to that enjoyed by cities and towns to enact local excise taxes, without a referendum. Examples include meals and cigarette taxes.