

2010 ODHCA President's Report

Old Dominion had a very successful legislative session talking with legislators and promoting transportation funding. We were well represented just about every Tuesday and Thursday at the General Assembly. We contributed to numerous political fund raising efforts and had member representation at most events.

Old Dominion had another successful Legislators Dinner at Bookbinders in Richmond. It was well attended and gave us valuable face time with our elected officials.

Old Dominion developed a succinct and compelling point paper advocating for transportation funding. It was widely distributed and discussed. It was a real collaborative effort. Ed provided the irrefutable facts and figures. Phil and several of us provided the editing.

Old Dominion met with several key political and transportation policy leaders in small group, closed door sessions:

Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton – met on two occasions in his office to discuss funding alternatives and the reform initiatives.

Senate Leader Dick Saslaw – met in Northern Virginia for lunch to discuss our “Va. Pump Toll” idea and talk funding strategy.

Governor Bob McDonnell – met in his conference room to discuss funding. We were supposed to meet for 20-30 minutes and he gave us 45.

Deputy VDOT Commissioner Charlie Kilpatrick – a “get acquainted” meeting to talk VDOT policy and the audits. We met for over an hour. His assistant had to come in and push him to his next appointment. A very engaging, fruitful meeting.

Phil Abraham drafted our “Virginia Pump Toll” bill. It is an original idea designed to garner sustainable long term funding in a way that is politically palatable. It lost some momentum when the audits “found” the billion dollars, but we are determined to introduce it nonetheless. Hopefully, it will eventually have the support needed for passage. I am very proud of Old Dominion's efforts with a fresh, unique concept.

Old Dominion continues to work diligently and tirelessly for our industry. We are the most engaged transportation group down at the General Assembly. Hopefully a big success or two is just around the corner.