

**The Governor's Challenge: "Building a Stronger Virginia Today"
Transportation Visions and Solutions**

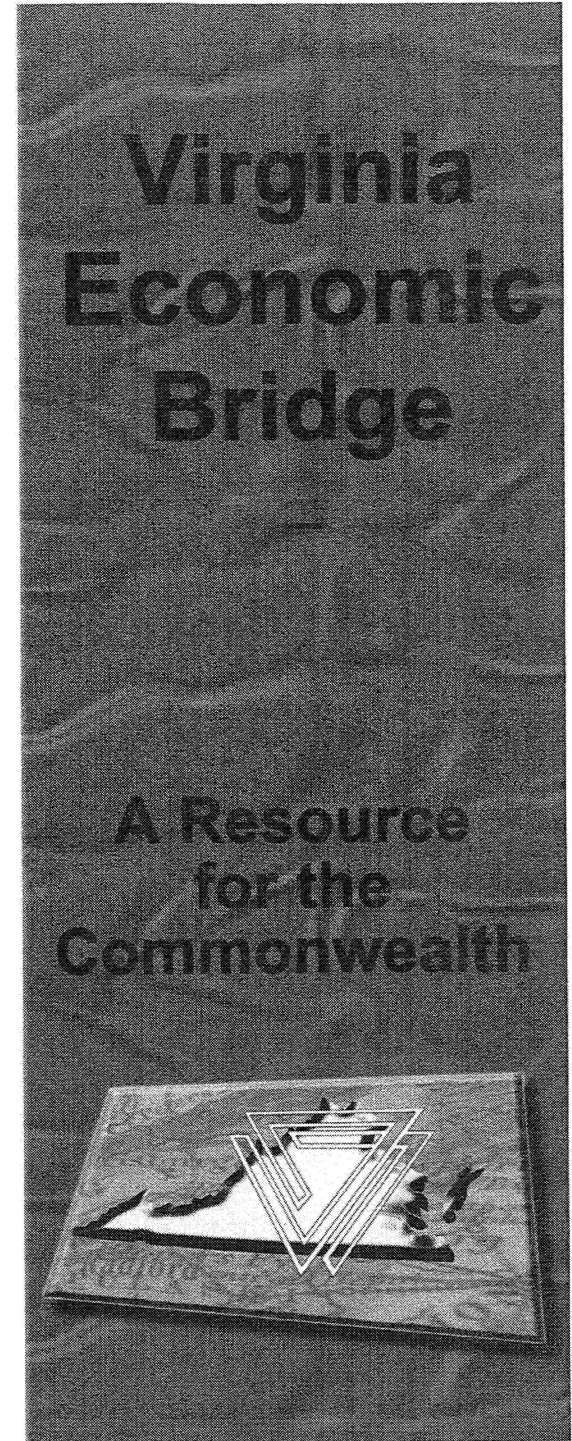
by

Susan Baker

The Governor's Challenge

“Building a Stronger Virginia Today”

Transportation Visions and Solutions



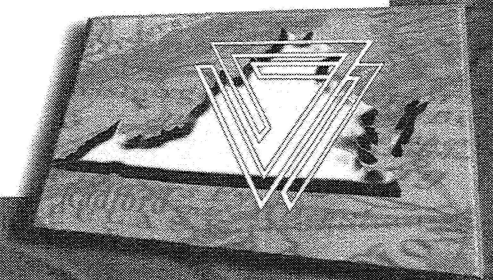
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Introduction

- Teams of juniors in high schools from all seven regions in Virginia will be selected for an exciting and unique opportunity to make a difference for the future of the Commonwealth.

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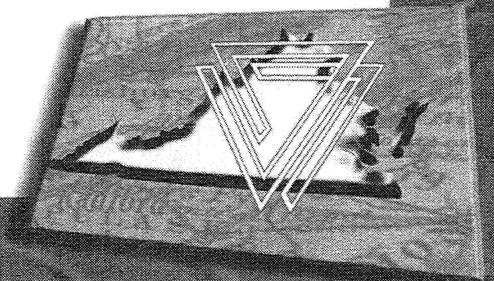
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STEM

- Using STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education, this emerging workforce will have the chance to creatively solve one of Virginia's biggest challenges: **TRANSPORTATION**.
- Students will be asked to develop alternative transportation systems for the state. This competition will enable teams to work with business mentors to design creative solutions for regional gridlocks and develop other transportation systems to more easily and expediently reach all parts of the Commonwealth.

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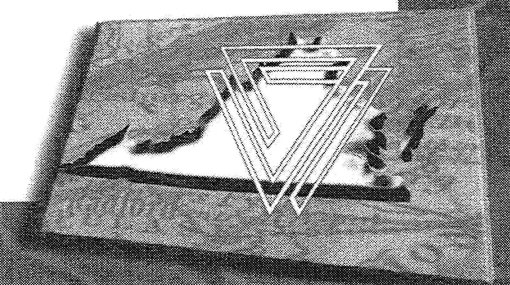
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Rationale

- As the population grows in Virginia, there will be increased challenges to the existing transportation infrastructure. Transportation issues also directly affect our economic future.



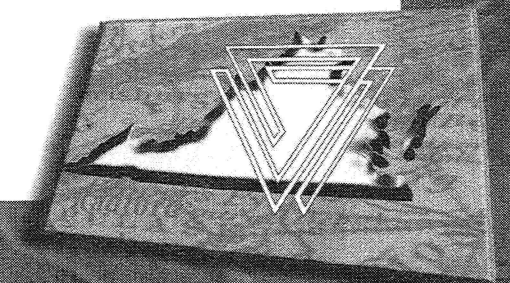
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GOAL

- Future generations are directly affected by what is or is not accomplished now. The goal of the “Building a Stronger Virginia Today” competition is to give students an opportunity to participate in important issues that will directly affect their future and quality of life.

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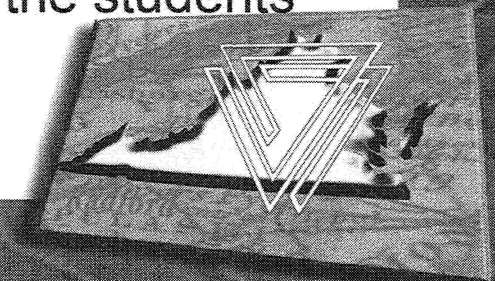
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Strategies and Implementation

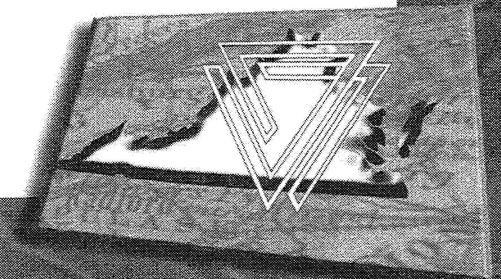
Students who have an interest in engineering or transportation, and an entrepreneurial spirit with a desire to be involved in a solutions-focused endeavor will be selected. Teams will be comprised of 3 – 5 students from each school. Once teams are finalized, they will attend a two-day orientation at a centrally located university. Students will then meet locally in after-school groups with volunteer business mentors to develop a design plan. At a competition event held in Richmond, each team will present its project plan to a panel of judges selected from VDOT, private engineering firms, college professors, and representatives from the Governor's office. So that all of the projects can be evaluated equally, modeling and simulation will be used to explain the transportation solutions that the students have designed.



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Dissemination of Information

- With approval and endorsement from state officials, the recruiting of teams from selected high schools throughout the state will take place. A marketing information packet will be distributed to school superintendents throughout the state. Each superintendent will select one high school from each of Virginia's seven regions to participate (ideally schools that have strong curricula in engineering and advanced science and math) to further promote the importance of STEM education.



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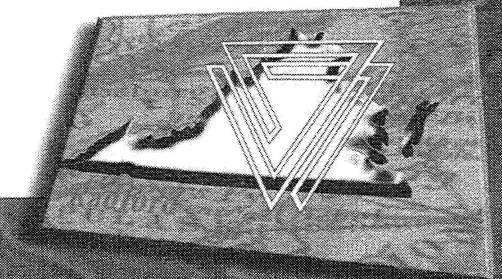
Timeline

- Late summer 2007 - Approval from Governor Kaine and Secretary Morris
- Winter 2008 - Host college or university will be selected
- Early Spring 2008 - Recruitment of student teams
- Summer 2008 - Orientation for "The Governor's Challenge"

Students will attend a two-day workshop and competition kick-off at a selected Virginia college or university. They will be given an overview of the competition criteria and will be involved in team-building activities. They will be housed in dormitories on campus for one night and will have the opportunity to socialize with students from other Virginia high schools.

- Late Fall 2008 - Competition in Richmond

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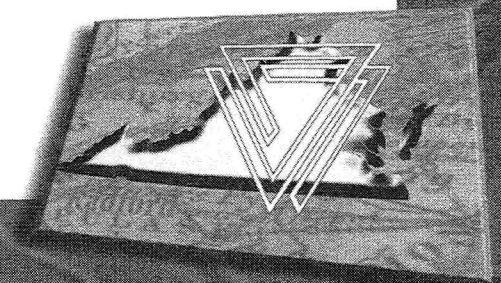
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Awards and Prizes

- Winning team members will each receive a scholarship award to a Virginia college or university and a certificate signed by Governor Kaine. Plaques will also be awarded for winning schools to display.
- 1st Place Winners - \$1,000.00 scholarship
- 2nd Place Winners - \$ 500.00 scholarship
- 3rd Place Winners - \$ 250.00 scholarship

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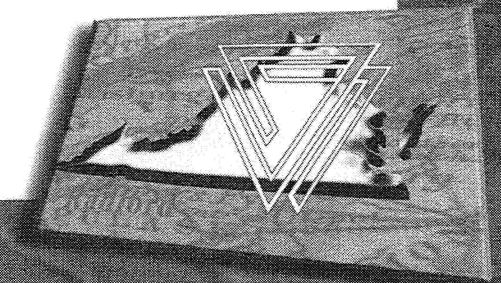
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Outreach After the Competition

- So that students become more aware of future “challenge” opportunities, the winning teams will participate in the Superintendent’s Conference in Richmond to showcase their projects, their solutions, and their experiences. In addition, our colleagues at Kidz Online Networks will create a webcast. This webcast will be broadcast in high school classrooms throughout the Commonwealth highlighting this innovative approach to solving complex future challenges and issues by using STEM education, as well as modeling and simulation.

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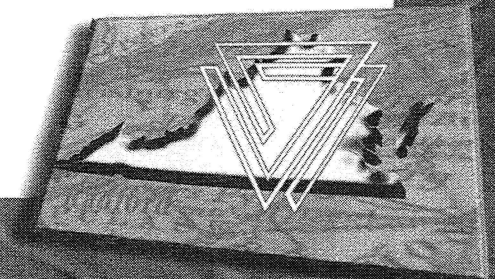
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**Let the
Challenge
Begin!**

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