

Virginia DOT Continues Support of Rest Area Commercialization

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has amended its plan to close 25 of the Commonwealth's 41 rest areas, but has affirmed its support for commercializing these facilities.

In a presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), the department proposed seeking a change in federal law to overturn the ban on rest area commercialization. VDOT also proposed reducing the number of rest area closures, now asking to close only 19 facilities. The department recommended constructing additional truck parking at other rest areas to maintain the current level of rest area truck parking. The proposal would also replace a current rule limiting truck parking at rest areas to two hours with a "no overnight parking rule."

VDOT's plan would require CTB approval. The panel will consider the matter next month and, if approved, the rest areas in question would close by July 1.

NATSO, through the Partnership to Save Highway Communities, submitted a letter to Virginia Governor Tim Kaine this month opposing commercialization.

[Click here to read the letter.](#)