



I want to take a moment to brief the commission on a forum I attended this past Tuesday that was sponsored by VDOT and the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance. These are the people who plan, design, build and maintain Virginia's transportation network.

Here's what I learned. The professionals are impressed with what we've done, and because we were built for speed and have taken advantage of the opportunities before us, we are about to set a new norm for action.

Parenthetically, it's safe to say that no one currently in a leadership position - and certainly not me, has ever had the opportunity to create a regional organization like ours out of whole cloth.

To be sure, the General Assembly set the table for us to do just that, but it's fair to say that no one expected us to gel so quickly. And yet, we have. Together, we are building a solid foundation for a new organization and creating new standards for ourselves.

Some may say it's too much too soon, but I would remind them of Saint Luke's words:

*"For unto those to whom much is given, much is required; and to whom much was committed, more will be asked"*

Indeed, we have been given much, and now is our time to meet the challenge. Given what I have witnessed, I know we will, and I want to thank each of you for helping do just that.