TRANSFORMING TRANSPORTATION
We must shift our excessive spending on highways towards walking, biking, rail, and transit. Virginia’s transportation policies and investments need to prioritize the development of a cleaner and more equitable multi-modal transportation system that strengthens our communities, reduces carbon pollution, and protects our natural, historic, and scenic resources. We don’t need more money to boost Virginians’ mobility and health, we just need to spend our current transportation dollars smarter and to overhaul how we plan transportation projects to boost our mobility, health, and environment.

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EXPANDING PUBLIC TRANSIT
Transit is essential for improving access to jobs, education, healthcare, and services for all Virginians and reducing vehicle trips, greenhouse gas emissions, and other air pollutants. Strengthening environmental justice, economic competitiveness, and climate change resiliency depends on action in 2021 and beyond to significantly increase the state’s investment in transit.

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GROWING RAIL CAPACITY
Our state policies must place greater priority on rail to reduce traffic congestion as well as carbon pollution. Further, public private partnerships with Virginia’s Class I railroads can enhance the capacity, speed, and reliability of the freight rail system and reduce highway truck volumes, improving safety and reducing pollution. Such partnerships – including public ownership of rail corridors – can also enable expansion of passenger rail service. Rail assets divested by the Class I railroads should be “rail-banked” to allow for future growth in rail service and to preserve right of way for the public good.

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ADVANCING TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION
Transportation continues to be Virginia’s largest source of carbon emissions (48 percent) and a top source of other harmful pollutants that damage both our environment and our health. While it takes time to build smarter and expand biking, walking, and transit, the adoption of EVs can ease this transition and provide significant reductions in transportation emissions. Accelerating transportation electrification can yield immediate health, environmental, and economic benefits for all Virginians.

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CURBING VEHICLE POLLUTION
Transportation is Virginia’s largest source of carbon pollution and a key source of other harmful pollutants. Currently EVs make up less than 2 percent of the Commonwealth’s vehicles. In order to build a healthier future and help address our climate crisis, Virginia needs to accelerate our transition to cleaner transportation. By adopting policies and making investments to provide more alternatives to driving and to promote electric vehicles, we can pursue a multi-pronged approach to both reduce vehicles miles traveled and electrify remaining trips taken by cars.

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