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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Virginia Transit Association honors
Senator Charles Colgan
for leadership on behalf of Public Transportation**

The Virginia Transit Association hosted its 2005 Awards Luncheon on May 10th in Williamsburg, VA to recognize the individuals, organizations, and programs contributing to high quality public transportation service in Virginia.

Richmond, Virginia - The 2005 VTA Awards Luncheon honored the contributions and leadership of individuals and successful innovative public transit programs in Virginia. Awards were presented by Chris Zimmerman, President of VTA and Vice-Chairman of the Arlington County Board.

Senator Charles Colgan, Sr., representing district 29, received the **2005 Legislator of the Year Award**.

Chris Zimmerman thanked Senator Colgan for his ongoing support for public transportation. Mr. Zimmerman went on to say, "During the 2005 Session he played an instrumental role in crafting a budget, building on Governor Warner's transportation proposal, that provided \$75 million in one time capital funds for transit."

Senator Colgan worked toward securing a one-time infusion of funding for capital needs of systems throughout Virginia, including new rail cars for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and Virginia Railway Express (VRE), which will allow for added capacity, as well as bus purchases.

When accepting the award, Senator Colgan recognized that the General Assembly has a great deal of work to do in preparation for the 2006 session during which transportation will be a prime focus.

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VTA is a trade association based in Richmond, VA representing transit agencies of all sizes throughout Virginia and businesses that support public transportation. VTA's members provide a wide range of services to the communities in which they operate. www.vatransit.com