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**NEWS RELEASE
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KAUFMAN NAMED OUTSTANDING PUBLIC OFFICIAL BY VIRGINIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

(Richmond, Va.) -- Fairfax County Supervisor Dana Kaufman has received the 1998 Outstanding Public Official Award from the Virginia Transit Association. The association, which represents transit properties throughout the state, annually recognizes a state or local official who has made a significant contribution to public transportation in Virginia.

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) nominated Kaufman for the award, citing his contributions to public transportation. The nomination highlighted Kaufman's efforts to bring transportation options to the 95,000 residents of Fairfax's Lee District, which includes the Springfield interchange, also referred to as "the mixing bowl."

"Mr. Kaufman saw the need for expansion of VRE and Metro to the mixing bowl area," VRE officials said. "The result of his efforts was the Joe Alexander transportation facility, which serves several thousand VRE and Metro riders every day of the week."

Kaufman has held positions with some of the largest transit organizations and planning organizations in Northern Virginia, including Alternate on the Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board, Vice Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, Vice Chairman of the Virginia Railway Express Operations Board, Member of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority and Member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Coordinating Committee.

Kaufman will be honored at the Virginia Transit Association (VTA) Award's Luncheon on November 13 in Lynchburg. The association also will honor the Williamsburg Visitors Shuttle with the Innovative Program Award. The Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award for an Urbanized Area recipient is the Greater Richmond Transit Company, and the Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award for a Non-urbanized Area went to JAUNT, Inc., of Charlottesville.

The VTA has 26 transit property members and 28 associate members. Founded in 1977, VTA provides public education and legislative advocacy to support public transportation systems throughout the state.

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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