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**NEWS RELEASE
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Virginia Transit Association Recognizes State Legislators' Achievements

VTA honors Senator William C. Wampler, Jr., Senator Charles J. Colgan, Delegate Joe T. May and Delegate John A. Rollison, III for leading the way in public transportation initiatives.

Roanoke, Va. -- At their annual meeting on May 22, 2000, the leading public transit organization in the Commonwealth honored four legislators for their strong commitment to public transportation. The **Virginia Transit Association (VTA) presented awards to elected officials** who had taken on leadership roles to increase and enhance public transit in Virginia.

"These legislators have demonstrated an excellent understanding of the public transportation issues facing Virginia today. **Their expertise and dedicated leadership have helped VTA move public transit forward on the state agenda.** We appreciate their efforts to increase and improve public transportation across the state," stated Meredith Richards, President, VTA.

Senator Colgan, a long time transit supporter, was recognized as **VTA 2000 Senator of the Year**. **Delegate May** was presented the **VTA 2000 Delegate of the Year Award**. They successfully sponsored budget amendments dedicating a larger share of federal transportation funds for transit in Virginia. This success continues the important shift in the General Assembly's approach to funding transportation — the recognition that transportation is more than just roads alone.

Senator Wampler's dedicated leadership on public transit issues earned him the **VTA 2000 Transportation Leadership Award**. Over the past five years, he has worked to expand public transit and rail in order to provide citizens with alternatives in transportation.

Delegate Rollison spearheaded an ambitious plan for transportation in the House of Delegates. He has been honored with the **VTA Multimodal Transportation Legislative Award**. His early leadership and tenacity on this issue helped pave the way for a successful compromise package that included many significant transit projects.

The Virginia Transit Association (VTA) has 26 transit property members and 28 associate members. Founded in 1977, VTA provides public and professional education and legislative advocacy to support public transportation systems throughout the state. Transit gets people to work, school, shopping and health care facilities reliably, quickly and cheaply. It helps business reach out to more workers and contributes to a cleaner environment and a more livable community by reducing congestion on the roads.

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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