A LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

CONNECTING WILDLIFE HABITATS FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Project	Average Total Cost	20% State-Private Match
Exclusionary Fencing (per mile)	**$425k**	**$85k**
Underpass/ culvert expansion	**$500k-2 million**	**$100-500k**
Overpass	**$5.7 million**	**$1 million**

$2M

in state seed money buys 2 overpasses, 4-5 underpasses, 10 culvert improvements, or 20+ miles of fencing!*

Virginia sees over 60,000 wildlife-vehicle collisions annually, costing an average of $41,000 in state and personal costs per incident. However, just one underpass + fencing can reduce crashes in a hotspot segment by 96%!

"VIRGINIA IS **TOP TEN** in the Nation for Wildlife-Vehicle Conflict"

Properly designed underpasses using the "geomorphic simulation/bankfull approach," supported by recent Federal Highway Administration guidance, improve flood resilience AND aquatic/terrestrial passage by maintaining natural stream banks and channels.

*Calculations from Virginia Transportation Research Council

VOTE YES FOR HB 2025

MANDATE WILDLIFE PASSAGE IN ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

This bill directs VDOT to establish a program incorporating wildlife crossings into highway projects earlier on in the planning process to reduce large-animal collisions, improve driver safety, and protect wildlife. This will help ensure effective planning and regular updates to the General Assembly on progress and outcomes.

INCORPORATE WILDLIFE PASSAGE IN FLOOD RESILIENCE PLANNING

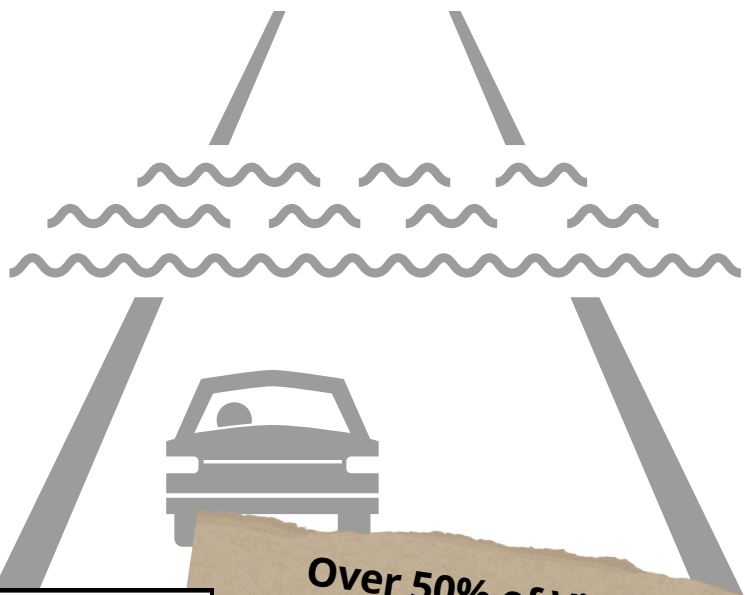
In many cases, we can improve culverts and drainage systems while protecting wildlife at the same time. Without stronger standards, **taxpayer dollars are wasted** on poorly designed culverts and missed crossing opportunities. This bill requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation to incorporate wildlife-friendly design in flood resilience infrastructure and the Virginia Flood Resilience Master Plan.

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR VIRGINIA'S WILDLIFE CORRIDOR ACTION PLAN

This legislation works to secure long-term, diverse funding sources for wildlife crossings that will build state capacity, support local projects, reduce collision costs, and prioritize overburdened communities. Our legislative requests may include a short-term funding solution through an associated budget amendment.

STANDARDIZE WILDLIFE-VEHICLE CONFLICT DATA COLLECTION

Wildlife-vehicle conflict data, primarily based on police reports, underreports incidents by 8.5 times. By requiring VDOT's road maintenance contracts to utilize the VDOT Wildlife Carcass Removal Tracking app across all districts, we can place crossings where they will be most effective.



Over 50% of Virginia's culverts are ill-equipped for increased flooding and wildlife passage!

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL JESSICA@WILDVIRGINIA.ORG

SCAN HERE FOR OUR FULL VCN BRIEFING CHAPTER

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