



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1401 EAST BROAD STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-2000

**GREGORY A. WHIRLEY**  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

July 14, 2006

Mr. A. V. "Andy" Gallagher  
Executive Director  
West Virginia Housing Institute, Inc.  
PO Box 2182  
1118 Kanawha Blvd. East  
Charleston, WVA 25328-2182

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

This letter is a follow-up to the meeting which was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at the VDOT Wytheville Office to discuss the I-77 tunnel restrictions. Tentative solutions were presented and the group was told that a definite answer would be provided to you by Friday. This letter is to be considered as that response. VDOT has internally discussed and agreed upon the following proposals which were considered as viable alternatives to the 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM lane restriction:

- The contractor has agreed that beginning on Tuesday, July 18, 2006 until September 4, 2006 (Labor Day); he will begin work at 5:00 AM and end at 3:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. In order to give the contractor time to remove his work zone, no travel will be permitted until 4:00 PM.
- Until further notice, no lane restrictions will be set up on Fridays of each week. Because of potential weekend traffic, all permitted travel on Friday will end at 4:00 PM.

Based on the above DMV will issue hauling permits for accommodation of all 14' and 16' wide modular/manufactured homes as well as any other commodity that meets or exceeds these dimensions. The following procedures and restrictions will be applicable for all permits issued for this time period:

- 1. A special blanket permit will be issued for all 16' modular/manufactured floor units requesting travel on northbound I-77. This permit will be valid on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM and Fridays until 4:00 PM. This special permit will be valid beginning Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and ending at noon on Friday September 1, 2006. This blanket permit will be day, date, and time specific. Because of the extra work associated with these permits, we are asking that whomever requests these permit allow ample time for DMV staff to issue the permit.**



- 2. All customers who currently hold 14' wide blanket permits will be allowed to use their existing permit for northbound I-77 only on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM and on Friday until 4:00 PM. This is something that needs to be relayed to all current holders of 14' wide blanket permits. Andy, I would hope that this is something that you could be instrumental in doing.**
- 3. All wide load single trip permits routed northbound on I-77 will be restricted to the same dates, days, and times as the blanket permits.**
- 4. No 16' wide permit movement will be authorized for Saturday or Sunday movement unless you can provide written documentation that the neighboring state will allow passage into their state or unless the industry can provide written documentation that they have secured a staging area for these units. We do not want any units sitting on the side of the road waiting for legal travel times into neighboring states.**

For the short term, we ask that all involved be very diligent in requesting permits and allow the DMV as much time as possible to process your request. This process is putting a tremendous burden on DMV staff.

Andy, this schedule and the restrictions must be honored. We must not have any deviation that causes other disruptions to the contractor. Lane restriction signs will be installed very soon and when these signs are uncovered and the work zone set-up, blanket permits are **invalid**. We are going to place the signs in such a manner that ample time will be allowed for the units to turn around or seek another route.

We have spoken to and solved the short term solution and we need to address the long term issue. After Labor Day, Route 460 will be open to all loads and that will be our preferred route of travel for 14' and 16' wide floor units as well as all other oversized loads. I again checked the mileage for that detour and if the units are coming out of Tennessee (I-81 N), it would add 48 miles to the trip and if they are coming out of North Carolina (I-77 N), it would add 38 miles to the trip. The proposed detour routing for units using I-81 N is – I-81 north to exit 118 A&B (Route 460 W), Route 460 W to I-77 in Princeton, WVA. This is all 4-lanes divided highway, so the escort requirements (3 for 16' units) are the same. Units traveling north on I-77, the proposed detour routing will be I-77 N to I-81 N to exit 118 A&B (Route 460 W), Route 460 W to I-77 in Princeton, WVA. I would ask that this proposed detour routing be analyzed by shippers' for validity. Use of this route after Labor Day will allow un-restricted travel Monday through Friday.

VDOT staff stands ready to meet with yours or any other industry affected by this construction work anytime that you or they deem necessary. All that is required is you or whoever gives me a call and I will try to arrange a meeting place and time that meets everyone's schedule.

The schedule for lane closures will be posted on the VDOT web site listed below, which allows anyone to go to the web page and view construction areas in the Commonwealth. I have also listed the toll free number for Virginia 511 Travel Information. VDOT web site: [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org) <<http://www.virginiadot.org>>, then click on Travel Center and select

-3-

Travel Advisories and Bristol Region <<http://www.virginiadot.org/comtravel>>, Virginia 511  
Travel Information toll-free number: 1-800-578-4111

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at (804) 662-7646 or you can email me at [James.Cline@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:James.Cline@VDOT.Virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

James A. Cline  
Land Use Program Manager