

# 2015 Achievement Awards Virginia Association of Counties

## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2015.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Locality: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Category: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Innovative Way to Improve Fire/EMS Response Times through Transportation Infrastructure**

In order to meet an existing service gap and high demand, a new fire station between Station 2 (Manchester) and Station 15 (Airport) was added to the county's public facilities plan in 2004.

Budgetary constraints during the economic downturn delayed construction and staffing of the new fire station; however, the county still felt it had an obligation to improve response times in the area. Both Station 2 and Station 15 were analyzed to see if new access roads would result in any response time improvements. This analysis revealed that a connection from Station 2 to Walmsley Boulevard would result in a significant increase in coverage area.

On July 1, 2011, the Board appropriated \$1.7 million in the FY2012 budget for construction of a new public road (Newbys Bridge Road Extended) that would provide the desired response time improvements. County Transportation and Fire staff met with area stakeholders to discuss the proposed road extension and its impacts. There was both support for and opposition to the project. Staff did not believe adequate funding was available to construct the public road in a manner that would have been satisfactory to area citizens. Due to the limited amount of funding and the pressing need to improve Fire/EMS response time in the area, staff recommended construction of a private road from Fire Station 2, through the Manchester Middle School property, to Walmsley Boulevard. Representatives from the Fire Department indicated this private road would provide the same response time improvement as the original public road project. In February 2014, Transportation staff moved ahead with the design, permitting and construction of the project. Construction began in March 2015. Once complete, the project will bring approximately 1,700 homes into the desired four-minute response time area.

The project demonstrates an innovative way of looking at providing response time improvements and represented a departure from the status quo. In the past, response time issues were addressed primarily by constructing new facilities. Construction of the road connection allowed the county to avoid the significant expense associated with the construction, staffing and maintenance of a new facility. This project was a collaborative effort of the Transportation and Fire departments in the county. Both departments worked together to identify and implement a solution which would improve response times. By connecting an existing fire station to a new corridor, significant improvements could be made to response times without the high capital costs and on-going administrative and operational costs associated with a new facility.