About the cover:

On July 1, 2007, the commonwealth saw a new form of fines go into effect: abusive driver fees, part of the transportation revenue package adopted by the 2007 General Assembly. Since then, the fees have been hotly debated in the media and among Virginians. One of the many concerns about the fees is their legality given that they apply only to Virginia drivers. Another is that the very nature of the fees creates somewhat of a Catch-22. The state is counting on the money generated by the abusive driver fees to bolster long-term transportation revenue, yet if the fees do encourage better driving behavior by Virginians, they won’t deliver the forecasted revenue. The feature article, “Virginia abusive driver fees: An abuse of fines?” on page 8 takes a comprehensive look at the fees, compares them to similar fees in neighboring states, and looks at other, potentially more effective means of raising transportation revenue in the commonwealth. (Cover photo illustration by Josh Armstrong and David Stanley.)