Within a financially constrained environment, significant pavement work needed to be accomplished in fiscal 2006 in the Staunton District. The Staunton District pavement management team endeavored to find a way to maximize federal funding to get the job done. The team identified and solved issues to enable federal-aid paving schedule contract development for the district’s five residencies. Federal participation in state construction and maintenance projects allows VDOT to provide a small portion of funds (in this case 10 percent) from the commonwealth’s budget against a much greater portion of federal funds (90 percent).

In August 2005 when this process began, there was no guidance at VDOT or the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), no set procedures and no concurrence as to what the contract development schedule should be. By November 2006, the team had not only developed the procedures and processes, they completed the paving contract as well. This included environmental clearance, safety review and compliance with FHWA requirements. These requirements are in addition to the core tasks of collecting pavement ratings, coordinating prioritization with five residencies and developing contracts.

The Staunton District has not only improved the process from 2006 to 2007 schedules, but also has provided guidance to other districts willing to use this process to obligate more funding. Anticipated federal reimbursement (90 percent of participating items) of the 2006 schedules is approximately $9.4 million; the estimate for 2007 schedules is $8.7 million. If all nine districts use this process and include national highway system primary routes, savings could exceed $100 million annually.

Special thanks to Tim Lewis, P.E., FHWA, Virginia Office, who also participated in this team accomplishment.

Nominated by: Chaz Weaver, P.E., Staunton District Materials Engineer