Statewide Construction Quality Compliance

Construction quality, as evaluated by VDOT’s Construction Quality Improvement Program (CQIP), measures project compliance with contract quality requirements. The evaluation is made through a critical assessment, guided by a checklist of more than 1,100 construction quality checkpoints. The results show VDOT’s commitment to building quality roads and bridges while seeking opportunity for continuous improvement. Annual compliance results for both years surpassed the 91 percent target, with FY 2008 achieving 91.6 percent and FY 2009 attaining a 92.5 percent rating.

National Work Zone Awareness Week 2009 – VDOT joined other states in commemorating National Work Zone Awareness Week April 6 – 10. Drivers were encouraged to slow down, stay alert and avoid distractions when driving through work zones.

During the observance, five videos featuring Commissioner David S. Ekern and various VDOT employees were posted on VDOT’s Web site and YouTube channel educating citizens and fellow employees about the dangers in work zones and the people who place themselves at risk while working in them.

Overview

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) continues to review its programs and services to find reductions. Our financial outlook remains uncertain. Six-year transportation revenue estimates were reduced by an additional $900 million in August, bringing our overall revenue shortfall, since the spring of 2008, to approximately $4.6 billion.

This summer we finalized reductions to services including reducing 42 rest areas and welcome centers to 23, reducing mowing and roadside maintenance, streamlining ferry operations, scaling back interstate maintenance contracts, reducing Safety Service Patrols and closing equipment shops.

We began reducing the agency by 1,000 full-time employees and 450 part-time staff in June.

The agency embarked on the second of three anticipated employee reductions as outlined in the Blueprint. In July, approximately 640 employees were given first notices of layoff. The third wave of employee reductions needed to reach the agency’s staffing target is planned for this winter.

We are making changes that will affect every employee and all levels of the organization, and every customer in the commonwealth. We will emerge, however, as an effective, efficient and sustainable transportation agency.

David S. Ekern, P.E.
Commissioner

All Contracts Completed

388 construction and maintenance contracts were due for completion by fiscal year-end. Of those 388 contracts, 318 (82 percent) were completed both on time and within budget.

Scheduled Contracts Completed

119 construction contracts were due for completion by fiscal year-end. Of those 119 contracts, 100 (84 percent) were completed on time.

269 maintenance contracts were due for completion by fiscal year-end. Of those 269 contracts, 230 (85.5 percent) were completed on time.
Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements — In mid-April, VDOT conducted informational meetings clarifying the new Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements. The meetings provided an overview of the new policy and enabled stakeholders to ask questions related to implementation. The requirements establish standards that new streets must meet to be accepted into the state system for perpetual public maintenance. The requirements will help improve efficiency of Virginia’s transportation network, ensure appropriate pedestrian accommodations, reduce costs, promote context sensitive street design and reduce storm water run off.

Road Construction Ahead — In an effort to save money and be more environmentally friendly, a new enhanced and interactive online version of VDOT’s popular Road Construction Ahead publication was released in early May. The publication outlines impacts from long-term construction projects on interstate and primary highways and allows motorists to plan trips and identify potential construction delays. The online resource is updated every four months.

Intelligent Transportation Society of American Award — VDOT was recognized by the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America) with one of the top five finalist awards for its VaTraffic system. The Virginia Chapter of ITS America won the National Chapter Award in the area of professional development.

Hurricane Evacuation Demonstration — On June 9, an event was held to educate local officials, citizens and media on what actions the state would take if a major hurricane struck Virginia. It’s an annual event, but this year’s event was scaled down in order to cut costs. The Richmond and Hampton Roads Districts partnered with various state agencies for the hurricane evacuation exercise that highlighted the incident command function and use of the hurricane gates, but did not involve an Interstate 64 reversal.

National Bike to Work Day — Governor Tim Kaine, Richmond Mayor Dwight C. Jones and about 100 downtown Richmond bicycle commuters celebrated National Bike to Work Day on May 15 by participating in a commuter convoy from Monroe Park near the Virginia Commonwealth University campus to the George Washington statue on the State Capitol grounds. Additional events were held across the state including a record number of participants in the Northern Virginia District, where VDOT employees manned pit stops.

Hermes Platinum Award — The Hampton Roads District Battlefield Boulevard project team won a 2009 Hermes Platinum Award for their public relations/communications community relations campaign. Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of traditional materials and programs, and emerging technologies.