COMMISSIONER’S MESSAGE

During a blustery and lengthy season of winter weather, Virginia Department of Transportation crews and staff around the state repeatedly sprang into action – mobilizing and working around the clock to plow and treat roads and, in some cases, deploying teams to assist other harder hit areas.

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, tolling began on the Interstate 64 Express Lanes in Norfolk, providing more choices for travelers while increasing the efficiency of the corridor for all drivers. Solo drivers can now use the lanes as an alternative to the free general purpose lanes during peak travel times. The 64 Express Lanes are open from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. westbound and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. eastbound Monday through Friday.

On a somber note, on Saturday, Feb. 3, we tragically lost a member of Virginia’s transportation family. Dustin Warden, a 25-year-old VDOT contractor with DBi Services, was struck and killed by a vehicle while setting up a mobile work zone on Interstate 95 in Prince George County. I, along with the entire VDOT family, offer our deepest condolences to his family, friends and co-workers.

As you will see in this quarter’s report, we have elevated our standards and set new goals for statewide bridge conditions. We raised the target percentage of non-structurally deficient structures from 97 to 99 percent on the interstate system, from 94 to 96 percent on the primary system and from 89 to 94 percent on the secondary system. By raising the bar for maintenance and construction, we continue to improve the condition of all roads in the commonwealth.

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
VDOT Commissioner

SMART SCALE PROJECTS

THE BIG PICTURE ON BRIDGE CONDITION

An Icy Rescue
A call of high water trapping a vehicle turned out to be shards of ice measuring eight inches thick and several feet long filling a space where Route 706 in Floyd County once stood.

One night in mid-January, a driver trying to navigate through thick fog found himself stranded in a giant ice pile formed when the Little River, normally about five feet below the road, froze over from bank to bank. A VDOT operator later helped free the stranded vehicle.

Check Area Headquarters Superintendent Ronald Sowers said once the ice starts to thaw, the river rises, creating an ice dam as it rounds the bend that eventually bursts and deposits ice onto the road.

An icy rescue

As of May 7, 2018

Data for FY 09 - FY 17 from the “State of the Structures Report for Fiscal Year 2017”. Data for FY 18 from Dashboard on April 03, 2018.
**VDOT NOTES**

**Major Projects**

- **I-64 Southside Widening and High Rise Bridge:** Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne broke ground on the first phase of the Interstate 64 Southside widening and High Rise Bridge project on Friday, Jan. 12. The project calls for I-64 to be widened from four to six lanes, adding one express lane in each direction. A new bridge adjacent to the existing span will carry three lanes of I-64 west traffic over the Elizabeth River.

- **HRBT Expansion:** On Wednesday, Jan. 24, Hampton Roads District Administrator Jim Utterback was named the project director of the Interstate 64 Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT) Expansion Project, VDOT’s largest transportation project in the state. VDOT received Statements of Qualifications from three private-sector teams by the Friday, March 2 deadline – Hampton Roads Capacity Constructors, led by Fluor Enterprises Inc., The Lane Construction Corp., Taylor Bros. Inc., Dragages Civil Works Virginia Inc., and lead designer AECOM Technical Services Inc.; Hampton Roads Connector Partners, led by Dragados USA Inc., VINCI Construction Grands Projets SAS, Dodin Campenon Bernard SAS Joint Venture, and lead designer I-64 Design Joint Venture (HDR Engineering Inc. and Mott MacDonald); and Skanska Kiewit Joint Venture, led by Skanska USA Civil Southeast Inc., Kiewit Infrastructure Co., and lead designer WSP USA Inc. The three teams are undergoing review, with shortlisting expected in April.

- **U.S. DOT TIGER Grant:** On Wednesday, March 28, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao announced the award of a $25 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant to Loudoun County for the extension of Northstar Boulevard between Shreveport Drive and Route 50.

**Awards and Honors**

- **ACEC Virginia Pinnacle Award for Engineering Excellence:** The Route 29 Solutions Rio Road GS1 project earned Richmond firm Rummler, Klepper & Kahl (RK&K) the 2018 Pinnacle Award for Engineering Excellence, presented Thursday, Feb. 1, by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Virginia.

- **Bicyclist’s Choice Award Nomination:** The grade-separation of Belmont Ridge Road and the Washington & Old Dominion Trail in Ashburn was nominated for a Washington Area Bicyclist Association’s 2017 Bicyclist's Choice Award. The milestone was nominated for Best Improvement for Biking in 2017 in Virginia along with three other nominees, where the full regional membership votes for the winner.

- **Roads Deal of the Year:** The Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project received Global America’s 2017 North America “Roads Deal of the Year” Award. The $2.3 billion design-build project, which includes 22.5-miles of new express lanes and a host of improvements on Interstate 66 from I-495 to Gainesville is working to ramp up construction this spring.