The Virginia Department of Transportation had an eventful first quarter of this fiscal year with a major project announcement, groundbreaking and weather response, among other endeavors.

In July, Governor Terry McAuliffe announced that Virginia’s proposed Atlantic Gateway Project was selected for a $165 million federal Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant. The multi-pronged project will enhance passenger and freight rail along the Interstate 95 corridor in Northern Virginia, and increase bus service.

The 95 Express Lanes will be extended both to the north and south, offering commuters a reliable trip from Fredericksburg to the Potomac River, and points in between. Improvements will ease congestion, decrease commute times, improve safety and stimulate economic growth. Combined resources for the project, including the federal grant, private investment and public funding, total $1.4 billion to address the worst bottlenecks on the I-95 corridor in Northern Virginia, transforming travel along the entire East Coast.

In August, we broke ground on the first phase of the Interstate 66 Inside the Beltway project, which aims to untangle congestion along the corridor in Northern Virginia.

Virginia was thankfully spared the worst of this year’s Atlantic hurricane season. As Hurricane Hermine bore down on the East Coast in early September, VDOTers were at the ready to ensure safe travel on Virginia’s roadways. Smaller storms throughout the summer months resulted in flooding, downed trees and the like, but roads were soon restored thanks to the diligent efforts of our personnel.

VDOT held its statewide Roadeo and Safety Training Day in August at a new venue, the Meadow Event Park in Caroline County. The annual competition gives our employees an opportunity to exhibit skills and build camaraderie while promoting safety – all essential components in the way we perform our work for residents of the commonwealth.

Charlie Kilpatrick, P.E.
VDOT Commissioner

Reckless Driving Signs
To help reduce speeds and increase safety, signs have been placed along portions of Interstate 81 and Interstate 95 to remind motorists they can be charged with reckless driving if they are traveling more than 80 mph in a 70 mph zone.

Though it’s not a new law, many drivers may not realize they can be charged with reckless driving if they are driving over 80 mph, regardless of the speed limit.

Using traffic sensors, VDOT identified areas on I-81 and I-95 with 70 mph speed limits that have higher percentages of motorists traveling at speeds over 80 mph and also have higher crash rates.

Statewide Construction Quality Compliance
Fiscal Year-End Construction CQIP Rating

Construction quality, as evaluated by VDOT’s Construction Quality Improvement Program (CQIP), measures project compliance with contract quality requirements. A checklist of more than 1,100 construction quality checkpoints guides this critical assessment. The results show VDOT’s commitment to building quality roads and bridges, while seeking the opportunity for continuous improvement. Construction quality (CQIP) First Quarter FY 2017 compliance met the 91 percent target at 93.9 percent, as compared to FY 2016’s rating of 94.4 percent.

Compliance met the 91 percent target at 93.9 percent, as compared to FY 2016’s rating of 94.4 percent.

Of the 63 FY 2017 construction & maintenance contracts scheduled for completion by the end of the first quarter, a total of 56 (88.9 percent) were completed on-time.

Of the 102 FY 2017 construction & maintenance contracts actually completed by the end of the first quarter, a total of 99 (97.1 percent) were completed within budget.

Of the 31 FY 2017 construction contracts scheduled for completion by the end of the first quarter, a total of 25 (80.6 percent) were completed on-time.

Of the 32 FY 2017 maintenance contracts scheduled for completion by the end of the first quarter, a total of 31 (96.9 percent) were completed on-time.
VDOT NOTES

■ Major Projects
Route 29-Rio Road: The grade-separated intersection at Route 29 (Seminole Trail) and Route 631 (Rio Road), which was shut down for construction on May 23, reopened on July 18 – 46 days ahead of schedule. It is one of eight Route 29 Solutions projects to improve safety and increase mobility along the corridor in Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Military Highway CFI: Construction of the new Military Highway continuous flow intersection in Norfolk began Aug. 6. The project will combine the addition of new lanes, new signals and new traffic management technology to increase capacity and reduce congestion along this important corridor.

Humpback Bridge Repairs Completed: Repairs to the Humpback Bridge, which experienced damage from a June flood event, have been completed, and the surrounding park and the bridge are now open to the public. Humpback Bridge, built in 1857 and located in Alleghany County just west of Covington, is the oldest of Virginia’s remaining covered bridges.

■ Awards and Honors
Southern Legislative Conference STAR Award: Virginia’s SMART SCALE transportation prioritization process received the State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) award from the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments.

ITE Transportation Awards for Safety: VDOT’s Highway Safety Improvement Program was awarded the 2016 Transportation Achievement Award for Safety from the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

AASHTO Sweet Sixteen 2016: A Virginia Transportation Research Council report on continuous friction measurement was recognized by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials as a Sweet Sixteen High Value Research Project for 2016. With Virginia Tech Transportation Institute as its partner, the research council demonstrated how using a tool called the Grip Tester to measure skid resistance, combined with crash data to identify problem areas, will allow VDOT to see where pavement treatments can be used to improve public safety.

Governor’s Award for Technology: The Northern Virginia Paving Map won a Governor’s Award for Technology in the “IT as Efficiency Driver – Government to Citizen” category during the Commonwealth of Virginia Innovative Technology Symposium (COVITS). The tool maps roads scheduled for paving to show the program’s progress, as well as individual road information on treatment type, contractor, VDOT contact and other information. Also at COVITS, VDOT’s Datathon team won the Crowd Favorite award for a workforce development mobile app and website during the Governor’s Workforce Innovation Challenge.

TransComm Communications Awards: VDOT’s Office of Communications received three 2016 TransComm Skills Awards for a “How Potholes Form” infographic, Culpeper District’s “Transportation Update” annual report and Salem District’s Diverging Diamond Interchange at Valley View Mall video.

FIRST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2017 PERFORMANCE

FY 2017 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME

92 construction contracts are currently planned for completion within FY 2017. At least 71 of those 92 contracts need to be delivered on time to meet the target of 77 percent.

FY 2017 MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME

246 maintenance contracts are currently planned for completion within FY 2017. At least 190 of those 246 contracts need to be delivered on time to meet the target of 77 percent.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET

Of the 32 FY 2017 construction contracts actually completed by the end of the first quarter, a total of 30 (93.8 percent) were completed within budget.

MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET

Of the 70 FY 2017 maintenance contracts actually completed by the end of the first quarter, a total of 69 (98.6 percent) were completed within budget.