COMMISSIONER’S MESSAGE

A first-of-its-kind toll relief program, the selection of a private-sector team for the Interstate 66 Outside the Beltway project in Northern Virginia and a high-tech partnership to improve travel times for motorists were among the big announcements made this fall.

In October, Governor Terry McAuliffe announced a 10-year program to help ease the financial burden on Norfolk and Portsmouth residents hardest hit by tolls on the Elizabeth River Tunnels. Enrollment for the pilot program ran from Dec. 1 through Feb. 15, with benefits beginning March 1. Elizabeth River Crossings, which operates the Elizabeth River Tunnels, will pay $500,000 a year for 10 years to help offset the costs.

Following a 16-month procurement process, Express Mobility Partners was selected to finance, design, build, maintain and operate express lanes on I-66 Outside the Beltway under the Public-Private Transportation Act. The $2.5 billion project, slated to open to traffic in mid-2022, will provide multimodal options to help reduce congestion and provide more reliable commute times in the I-66 corridor in Northern Virginia.

In December, VDOT and Waze, a community-based traffic and navigation program, announced an innovative partnership to improve real-time travel information on Virginia roadways using data from the Waze Connected Citizens Program and VDOT’s 511 Virginia traveler information tools.

As you review this report, you will notice a slight format change on the front page. We added a snapshot of SMART SCALE project development and delivery showing on-time and on-budget progress and targets for those projects. We also included an overview of vehicle-related crashes, serious injuries and deaths reflecting improvement in traffic safety in Virginia over the past decade. The back page of each report will continue to provide on-time and on-budget performance indicators for all projects due for completion within the year.

This is part of our continued effort to be transparent and accountable to taxpayers and all who travel the roadways of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We hope you find this information helpful and enlightening.

Charlie Kilpatrick, P.E.
VDOT Commissioner

SMART SCALE PROJECTS

THE BIG PICTURE ON TRAFFIC SAFETY

From calendar years (CY) 2007 through preliminary 2016*, the number of traffic crashes in Virginia dropped 16%, an average of almost 1% per year with an uptick over the last two years.

From CY07 through preliminary CY16*, the number of serious injuries resulting from traffic crashes dropped more than 63%, an average of 7% per year.

From CY07 through preliminary CY16*, the number of fatalities resulting from traffic crashes dropped 26%, an average just under 3% per year.
VDOT NOTES

**Major Projects**

**MLK Expressway Extension**: The Martin Luther King Expressway Extension opened a month ahead of schedule in late November. The 1.2-mile extension of Route 164/U.S. 58 joins Interstate 264, creating a seamless connection between the Downtown and Midtown tunnels in Portsmouth.

**Route 58 Widening**: A $120-million project to widen 8.2 miles of Route 58 – the state’s longest roadway – in southwest Virginia was completed in September under a public-private partnership agreement with Branch Highways of Roanoke to construct 36 miles of the corridor between Hillsville and Stuart as funding is available. This is the third segment completed under this agreement, which widened a portion of Route 58 through Carroll, Floyd and Patrick counties. One mile of the project is Floyd County’s first four-lane road.

**Safety Rest Area Opens**: A new safety rest area on Interstate 95 southbound at Ladysmith opened in December, nearly six months ahead of schedule. The $3.5 million project replaces an aging safety rest area and will provide larger, modern facilities for about 1.4 million visitors annually. The original facility was demolished in April.

**I-81 Exit 14 On-ramp**: Nine months into a multi-year project, the newly constructed northbound I-81 exit 14 on-ramp in Abingdon opened to traffic in October. The resulting separation of the northbound on and off ramps provides a key safety enhancement.

**Diverging Diamond Interchange**: A new diverging diamond interchange at Valley View Boulevard and Interstate 581 at exit 3C in Roanoke opened to traffic on Nov. 21. The $63.9-million project completed the partial interchange at I-581 and Valley View Boulevard by building an off-ramp from southbound I-581 onto Valley View Boulevard and an on-ramp from Valley View Boulevard onto northbound I-581.

**Awards and Honors**

**Design-Build Institute of America**: In November, the Zion Crossroads diverging diamond interchange project in Louisa County was selected as a 2016 Outstanding Owner Award winner by the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA), Mid-Atlantic Region. The Route 27/244 (Washington Boulevard/Columbia Pike) interchange project in Arlington won DBIA’s 2016 Design-Build National Award of Merit.

**Summit Awards**: The Salem District Office of Communications received three Summit Awards in November from the Public Relations Society of America Blue Ridge Chapter for their marketing campaign and video on the Valley View Diverging Diamond Interchange project and their media relations efforts during Work Zone Awareness Week.

**AASHTO Transportation Vanguard Award**: The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) presented VDOT Traffic Asset Program Manager Ning Li, Ph.D., P.E., PMP, with its 2016 Transportation Vanguard Award. The award, presented at AASHTO’s 2016 Annual Meeting held in November in Boston, honors a deserving individual who exemplifies a commitment to excellence and implementation of innovative technologies and processes.

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**SECOND QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2017 PERFORMANCE**

**CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET**

Of the 69 FY 2017 construction contracts actually completed by the end of the second quarter, a total of 62 (89.9 percent) were completed within budget.

**MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET**

Of the 225 FY 2017 maintenance contracts actually completed by the end of the second quarter, a total of 224 (99.6 percent) were completed within budget.