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 through the third quarter of FY 2012 slipped under the target of 91 percent to 90.6 percent, as compared to the FY 2011 third-quarter rating of 92.3 percent.

COMMISSIONER’S MESSAGE

For the second consecutive quarter, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) surpassed its targets for on-time and on-budget delivery of maintenance and construction projects. This performance during the second quarter of FY 2012 was the first time we had met all of these important goals since FY 2010.

I will reiterate that this success is proof of the dedication of VDOT employees as we continue to improve and innovate how we do our job to keep Virginia moving. An example of this commitment was the opening in February of the new London Bridge ramps on Interstate 264 in Virginia Beach – completed eight months early and under budget.

The condition of our assets continued to improve during the third quarter. We also advertised more than $400 million in paving contracts for the 2012 season.

Virginia had a generally mild winter, so we are pursuing additional maintenance projects with the money remaining from our snow-operations budget. VDOT budgeted $126 million for the 2011-2012 winter, and we spent $63.8 million on preparation, anti-icing and snow removal. That left $62.2 million available for other much-needed repair work.

The long-term construction we perform is having a positive impact on Virginia’s economy. For example, the $1.3 billion Interstate 495 Express Lanes project on the Capital Beltway is supporting 11,800 jobs and expected to generate $2.7 billion in economic benefits in the Washington metro area during its five-year duration, according to a study by George Mason University’s Center for Regional Analysis. The project has also awarded nearly $450 million in contracts to small and disadvantaged businesses.

Greg Whirley
Commissioner

CONTRACTS COMPLETED BOTH ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET

348 construction and maintenance contracts were due for completion by the end of the third quarter of FY 2012. Of those 348 contracts, 270 (77.6 percent) were completed both on time and within budget.

SCHEDULED CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME

56 construction contracts were due for completion by the end of the quarter. Of those 56 contracts, 49 (87.5 percent) were completed on time.

292 maintenance contracts were due for completion by the end of the quarter. Of those 292 contracts, 233 (79.8 percent) were completed on time.
Online tool tracks snowplows
In January, VDOT created a new Web tool that shows the status of snow plowing in Northern Virginia neighborhoods. Once it snows two inches or more, the color-coded map illustrates where the snowplows are in parts of Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties. The map indicates areas that have been plowed and where plowing is in progress or has yet to start.

Richmond Safety Service Patrol
VDOT expanded the Safety Service Patrol (SSP) in Richmond to provide traffic control and help clear incidents on area interstates. The SSP responded to more than 40 incidents on its first day of service in March, which included snow during the morning rush hour. The Richmond SSP costs $2 million per year; a VDOT research study found savings generated by the Hampton Roads SSP were nearly five times the cost of the service.

Large response to TOC request
VDOT received 32 responses to its request for information (RFI) for the operation and integration of its five transportation operations centers (TOCs). The centers monitor traffic conditions via cameras and other technology to provide traveler information on road conditions and to coordinate congestion management and incident response. VDOT issued the RFI through the Office of Transportation Public-Private Partnerships, seeking private-sector interest and suggestions on how the TOCs can operate as one system and deliver improved motorist services.

Safe Routes to School grants
VDOT awarded $5.9 million in Safe Routes to School (SRTS) federal grants to 18 communities for the 2012 cycle. The money will be used for projects to make bicycling and walking to school safer and more appealing for students at 28 elementary and middle schools.

Awards and recognitions
• Pavement recycling – Cold In-Place award for Interstate 81 In-Place Pavement Recycling Project (Augusta County), from Roads & Bridges magazine and the Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association
• American Council of Engineering Companies honors –
  • ACEC Metro Washington, Engineering Excellence Award – Interstate 95 widening
  • ACEC Virginia, Engineering Excellence Award – Chincoteague Bridge and Marsh Island Connector
  • ACEC Virginia, merit awards – Fairfax County Parkway (U.S. 1-Route 7), Jeremy's Run Bridge (U.S. 340, Page County)
• National Society of Black Engineers – Region II member of the year, Lloyd Arnold, state construction quality improvement engineer
• Audit honors – VDOT’s Internal Audit department received the highest rating for quality of work based on an external review, affirming that the group has sustained compliance with international standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors.