COMMISSIONER’S MESSAGE

Safety is vital for everyone who uses Virginia’s roads and highways. Our Highway Safety Improvement Program has been showing life-saving results. Since 2005, crashes with fatalities have dropped by 92 percent and injury crashes by 55 percent, thanks in part to the federal funds that have helped support 113 such safety projects.

The projects include improved traffic signals, better warning signs, rumble strips and other practical and lower-cost safety improvements. During this past summer, for example, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) began installing new signs, weather-detection cameras and cameras along the mountainous corridors of Interstate 64 on Afton Mountain and Interstate 77 near Fancy Gap. These upgrades will allow motorists to make more informed decisions based on changing driving conditions, with the goal of lowering crash rates and creating a safer roadway.

VDOT continues to focus public dollars on projects that will help prevent motorists from driving off the road, as well as those that reduce intersection crashes and improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. Practical engineering solutions combined with education and enforcement can save lives. Safety also is a personal responsibility, in which all of us must drive without distractions and focus on the road, particularly in construction work zones.

We continue to study options to improve long-term mobility on Interstate 66 in Northern Virginia. In September, VDOT issued its request for qualifications (RFQ) for interested private-sector teams to share their resources, qualifications and experience to deliver the planned $2.1 billion I-66 “Outside the Beltway” project under the Public Private Transportation Act.

The shortlisted teams that subsequently submitted their qualifications statements to VDOT, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and Virginia Office of Public-Private Partnerships have been asked to provide more information in the second part of the RFQ process.

Charlie Kilpatrick, P.E.
VDOT Commissioner

Rest area gets monarch butterfly refuge
VDOT and Dominion Virginia Power joined the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Native Plant Society and Valley Land to plant more than 8,000 pollinator-friendly plants at the Dale City rest area on northbound Interstate 95.

The project features a 15,000-square-foot meadow restoration, along with two smaller plantings near the rest-area building, which will serve as educational stations with interpretive signage for visitors. The habitat will become naturalized over the next few years.

Statewide Construction Quality Compliance

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. Results through the first quarter of FY 2016 show that quality compliance met the 91 percent target at 94.4 percent, as compared to a 93.3 percent rating for the same period in FY 2015.

Of the 54 FY 2016 construction and maintenance contracts scheduled for completion by the end of the first quarter, 41, or 75.9 percent, were completed on time.

Of the 164 FY 2016 construction and maintenance contracts completed by the end of the first quarter, 161, or 98.2 percent, were completed within budget.

Of the 27 FY 2016 construction contracts scheduled for completion by the end of the first quarter, 20, or 74.1 percent, were completed on time.

Of the 27 FY 2016 maintenance contracts scheduled for completion by the end of the first quarter, 21, or 77.8 percent, were completed on time.
FIRST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERFORMANCE

FY 2016 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME

Note: The number of actual completions may exceed planned completions when contracts are completed ahead of schedule.

FY 2016 MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME

Note: The number of actual completions may exceed planned completions when contracts are completed ahead of schedule.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET

Of the 28 FY 2016 construction contracts completed by the end of the first quarter, 27, or 96.4 percent, were completed within budget.

MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET

Of the 136 FY 2016 maintenance contracts completed by the end of the first quarter, 134, or 98.5 percent, were completed within budget.

VDOT NOTES

- Major Projects
  Hampton Roads groundbreakings: Virginia’s governor and transportation secretary helped kick off construction for both the first phase of the project to widen Interstate 64 and the Interstate 564 intermodal connector.
  I-64 bridge restorations: Surface overlays were completed on the Shockoe Valley bridge in Richmond District in August. Work is now under way on the Bryan Park interchange bridge over Interstate 195.
  Southeast Connector: The final portion of Route 281, which serves Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, opened in July.
- I-66 active traffic management
  VDOT launched its active traffic management system on Interstate 66 between Gainesville and the Potomac River to improve safety and incident management. The $38.6 million system expands the use of shoulder lanes between U.S. 50 and Interstate 495; adds new lane-control signals on all lanes between U.S. 29 in Centreville and Nutley Street (Route 243); increases coverage by traffic cameras and dynamic message signs; and upgrades ramp meters inside the Capital Beltway to improve traffic merging.
- Awards and honors
  American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO): VDOT received top honors in two categories in AASHTO’s transportation communications skills contest: “writing — news release” for a release about research to monitor wildlife along I-64 to reduce animal-vehicle collisions, and “graphics — interactive presentation” for its in-house electronic bulletin boards. The Route 29 Solutions website received honorable mention for “website with consultant.”
  American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA): Virginia’s 95 Express Lanes project team received ARTBA’s P3 Project of the Year award, which recognized the public-private partnership (P3) as a model of excellence in innovative transportation financing. The $1 billion, 29-mile project opened in December 2014 and features electronic tolling in the high-occupancy toll lanes, with pricing that adjusts to traffic conditions.
  Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA): Virginia’s first diverging-diamond interchange on U.S. 15 over I-64 won DBIA’s national award of merit in the transportation category.
  Commonwealth of Virginia Information Technology Services (COVITS): VDOT won the Governor’s Cup at the COVITS conference, the top prize in Virginia’s annual Datathon Challenge. The annual contest challenges agency teams to build an application from publicly available data for judges and COVITS attendees to evaluate.
  Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): Jacob Dellinger and Nathan O’Kane of VDOT’s Southwest Regional Operations won FHWA’s national “Build a Better Mousetrap” competition for developing “CurveWare,” a smartphone application that can evaluate speed limits to determine real-time curve safety on roads. FHWA’s local and tribal technical assistance programs sponsored the contest. CurveWare also won at state and regional levels.

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Of the 136 FY 2016 maintenance contracts completed by the end of the first quarter, 134, or 98.5 percent, were completed within budget.