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**Secretary Of Transportation Touts Progress In Delivering Priority Transportation Projects**

*Nearly 40% of Highway Projects are Under Construction or Completed*

RICHMOND - Secretary of Transportation Shirley Ybarra, in a report released today to the chairmen of the General Assembly's money and transportation committees, touted the progress that has been made with moving forward on critical transportation projects highlighted in the Virginia Transportation Act of 2000 (VTA). Nearly 40% of highway and transportation projects from the VTA are either under construction or completed.

"We are moving forward critical transportation projects across the Commonwealth to help tackle traffic, enhance economic development, and improve safety," said Ybarra.

The report is the third in a series of reports on VTA projects, required by law, that includes financial information and project updates from the Virginia Departments of Transportation, Rail and Public Transportation, Aviation and the Virginia Port Authority. The reports can be accessed at [VTA2000 Reports](#).

VDOT has completed a total of 60 projects out of the 391 identified in the VTA and is moving many more projects into the construction stage. Currently 93 high priority projects are under construction, significantly higher than the 70 projects under construction in fall of 2000.

"I want to thank the men and women of the Virginia Department of Transportation, Rail and Public Transportation, Aviation and the Virginia Port Authority who have worked diligently to move forward the largest transportation program in the history of the Commonwealth," said Ybarra.

By tapping new revenue sources without new or higher taxes, the VTA added and accelerated \$3 billion for highway construction, public transportation, airports and ports during the next six years.

**Status of Highway Projects from the Virginia Transportation Act**

<u>Project Phase</u>	<u>Number of Projects</u>
Projects Completed	60
Projects Awarded and/or Under Construction	93
Projects in Preliminary Engineering	126
Projects in Right of Way	87
Projects recently Initiated or to be Initiated	25

Total: 391