

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

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Transportation Board approves over \$4.5 million in local projects

The Commonwealth Transportation Board awarded over \$4.5 million in maintenance and construction contracts for the Hampton Roads District during their annual fall meeting held this week in Lexington.

B.P. Short & Son Paving Co, Inc. of Petersburg successfully bid the largest contract totaling \$2.1 million for a project to re-surface a 4.6 mile section of westbound Route 58 in Southampton and Greenville Counties.

The board approved a \$1.7 million bid by the Chesapeake based Kennedy Company of Virginia, Inc., for mechanical systems upgrades in Hampton Roads' tunnels. The project will further improve tunnel preparedness against sever flooding in the event of a Hurricane or other major storm.

The board also advanced a Public Private Partnership Act (PPTA) project that would replace 24 bridges in four years across the state to the next stage of review. The proposal, submitted by Infrastructure Builders, a joint venture of W. C. English, Inc. and Wilbur Smith Associates, as submitted includes three bridges located in Hampton Roads District - the Route 125 Kings Highway Bridge in Suffolk, the Route 40 bridge over the Blackwater River in Sussex County and the Sunnyside Road Bridge over the CSX Railroad in Emporia. (See accompanying release for more information on the PPTA process.)

In other action, the board awarded a \$562,426 contract to APAC - VA, Inc. of Portsmouth for improvements to Route 17 (Frederick Boulevard) near Bart Street in the City of Portsmouth and E.H. Ives of Norfolk was awarded a \$98,362 contract for traffic signal installation on Fox Hill Road in Hampton.

Other regional actions taken during the board's monthly meeting included:

- Approval of the location and design of a project to widen Route 58 (Laskin Road) from Republic Road to Oriole Drive in Virginia Beach. The completed project will eliminate service roads in the area, add continuous right turn lanes for a portion of the project and feature a raised median for landscaping along with a sidewalk, curb and gutters along one side.
- Approval of a consultant agreement with Johnson Mirmiran and Thompson of Richmond to provide a feasibility study on the widening

of I-64 from Route 199 in York County to the James City County/New Kent County line. The study will include landscape design services aimed at preservation of a scenic tree-filled gateway into the historic triangle and Hampton Roads. The contract will also evaluate existing structures and bridges and the effect of the widening on traffic control devices.

- Approval of a through truck restriction in the City of Suffolk along Route 658 (Town Point Road) from Route 623 (Respass Beach Road) to the Portsmouth City line.

- Approval of a request by the City of Norfolk to give a 0.125 acre parcel of land adjacent to Tidewater Drive to the city that was acquired during the re-construction of Route 168 (Tidewater Drive) and deemed no longer necessary for the uses of the State Highway System.