



# News Release

VirginiaDOT.org

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CONTACT: Joan Morris 703 383 2465; 571 238-5030  
[Joan.Morris@VDOT.Virginia.org](mailto:Joan.Morris@VDOT.Virginia.org)

## **VDOT COMPLETES IDEA-66 STUDY; 30 Day Public Comment Period begins April 1**

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have completed a feasibility study on how to best ease congestion within the existing right of way on I-66 westbound from the Rosslyn Tunnel to the Dulles Airport Access Road. The final feasibility study will be posted on the study Web site, [www.idea66.com](http://www.idea66.com), on April 1 and public comment will be accepted through May 1, 2005.

The Idea-66 feasibility study recommends:

- Advancing to a multi-modal environmental study that would include adding a third lane reserved for high occupancy vehicles (HOV), high occupancy tolls (HOT) and/or an express bus lane. Adding a third lane within the existing right of way would reduce congestion on I-66 and parallel roadways as well as improve evacuation capability. The cost would range from \$112 to \$233 million.
- Evaluating a series of interim improvements that could be done with minimal impact to address spot problems and improve roadway safety. These range in cost from \$2 million for improved signage to \$45 million for a continuous shoulder.
- Continuing community involvement to bridge the gap between the current Idea-66 study and a possible environmental study.

The Idea-66 Feasibility study began last summer in response to congressional and state concerns about growing congestion in the corridor and ease of evacuation during emergencies.

Beginning April 1, the completed Idea-66 Study will be available at [www.idea66.com](http://www.idea66.com). For more information, call the toll free info line at 1 866 816-4466.

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