COMMISSIONER’S MESSAGE

Groundbreaking was the perfect word to describe an event held Aug. 9 to celebrate the commencement of the Interstate 395 Express Lanes Northern Extension project. Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne and others were on hand to mark the beginning of a $500 million project that will convert existing high-occupancy vehicle lanes and add a third lane to extend the Express Lanes eight miles north to Washington, among other improvements. The lanes, scheduled to open in fall 2019, will provide additional options for faster and more reliable travel in one of the most congested corridors in the country.

In September, we celebrated the launch of the first group of multimodal improvement projects under the new Interstate 66 Inside the Beltway Commuter Choice program. The goal of the 10 new projects is to move more people through and reduce congestion on the I-66 corridor.

Another groundbreaking development last quarter was the launch of www.SmarterRoads.org, a new cloud based data portal initiative that provides free access to roadway and transportation information to entities interested in creating value-added transportation applications and products for end users. By sharing transportation data with third-party sector businesses, application developers and university partners, VDOT aims to accelerate Connected and Automated Vehicle technology development in Virginia. It’s another example of our commitment to innovation, sound stewardship of public dollars and providing taxpayers with the highest quality of customer service.

Charlie Kilpatrick, P.E.
VDOT Commissioner

Dancing Diamonds
You might have noticed something different about the Safety Service Patrol trucks in Northern Virginia, and that’s exactly the idea. An alternative to the traditional four-corner block flashing pattern, “Dancing Diamonds” is a new visual flash pattern being tested on interstates in Northern Region Operations (NRO).

“The dancing diamonds have just enough movement to make drivers aware our patrollers are in the road or on the shoulders without being a distraction,” said Matthew Maiorana, NRO’s field operations coordinator for the Safety Service Patrol.

Initial observations suggest the new pattern may be more effective in gaining the attention of approaching drivers and may serve as a safer, more effective messaging option statewide.

SMART SCALE PROJECTS

THE BIG PICTURE ON PAVEMENT CONDITION

There are 321 SMART SCALE projects in the SMART SCALE system; 241 (75.1%) are progressing on schedule and 296 (92.2%) are tracking on-budget.

28 of the 321 projects are scheduled to be awarded within fiscal year 2018, and 10 of those 28 projects have been awarded to date. Source: SMART SCALE Dashboard

There are 17 SMART SCALE projects currently scheduled to be delivered. 16 of the 17 projects are scheduled to be accepted on time and are progressing within budget. Source: SMART SCALE Dashboard

As of October 25, 2017
Sources: VDOT Dashboard and Past CTB Quarterly Reports


**VDOT NOTES**

- **Major Projects**
  - Berkmar Drive and Route 29 Widening: The Berkmar Drive extension and Route 29 widening projects in Albemarle County opened in July, almost three and a half months ahead of schedule and under budget. The two design-build projects are part of the Route 29 Solutions program to improve safety and ease congestion along the corridor in the Charlottesville region.
  - Elizabeth River Tunnels: The design-build phase of the $2.1 billion Elizabeth River Tunnels Project, which created a new two-lane tunnel under the Elizabeth River, upgraded the Midtown and Downtown tunnels and extended the MLK Expressway, was completed in September.

- **Awards and Honors**
  - FHWA Environmental Excellence Award: The Federal Highway Administration honored the 2.7-mile Central Railway Trail in Fredericksburg with a 2017 Environmental Excellence Award in July. The awards are given on a biennial basis to projects that protect and enhance the environment while meeting transportation needs. The trail was one of only 18 recipients nationally.
  - America’s Transportation Awards: VDOT’s Route 50 Traffic Calming project through Middleburg won the award in the Quality of Life/Community Development category in the small project group (projects costing under $25 million) in the southern regional America’s Transportation Awards competition. In the Operations Excellence category, VDOT’s I-66 Active Traffic Management System won in the medium project group. The awards were presented in August at the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Annual Meeting in Norfolk.
  - AASHTO Achievement Award: Northern Virginia Megaprojects Director Susan N. Shaw, P.E., received the Alfred E. Johnson Achievement Award from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials during its annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, in September.
  - Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators’ Roadeo: Staunton District employees Kenny Coffey and Jeff Oczkowski placed third in both the motor grader and backhoe events at the 2017 Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators’ Safety Conference held Sept. 18-20 in Sevierville, Tennessee. Virginia’s team of 12 operators, competing against nine other departments of transportation, placed fourth overall.
  - Virginia Asphalt Association: VDOT’s Northern Virginia District and the Virginia Paving Company won the Asphalt Paving Award for Virginia’s Outstanding Pavement of the Year for the 2016 project to improve six miles of eastbound Route 7 in Fairfax County.
  - Governor’s Technology Awards: VDOT’s Smarter Roads Data Portal was honored with a Governor’s Technology Award in the Innovative Use of Open Data category during the Commonwealth of Virginia Innovative Technology Symposium held in Richmond in September.

**FIRST QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2018 PERFORMANCE**

**YEAR-TO-DATE CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON-TIME**

376 contracts are planned for completion within FY 2018. At least 290 of those 376 contracts need to be delivered on time to meet the target of 77 percent.

**YEAR-TO-DATE CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET**

376 contracts are planned for completion within FY 2018. At least 320 of those 376 contracts need to be delivered within budget to meet the target of 85 percent.

**CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON-TIME**

Of the 72 FY 2018 contracts scheduled for completion by the end of the first quarter, a total of 61 (84.7 percent) were completed on-time.

**CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET**

Of the 123 FY 2018 contracts actually completed by the end of the first quarter, a total of 117 (95.1 percent) were completed within budget.