In June, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved Virginia’s new Six-Year Improvement Plan, which will provide $13.3 billion for transportation projects from Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 through FY 2021. This money includes $9.9 billion for highway construction to improve and maintain the state’s infrastructure.

The CTB also approved the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) annual budget of $5.29 billion for FY 2016, a 21 percent increase from FY 2015. That growth comes from the planned allocation of bonds, anticipated local and regional funding for VDOT-administered projects and additional revenue provided by the increased sales tax on gasoline that became effective in January.

VDOT’s FY 2016 budget includes approximately $2 billion for construction projects and another approximately $2 billion for road maintenance.

Also in June, the CTB approved a new scoring process that will rank transportation projects for their funding eligibility. Once projects are scored, the CTB will have the best information possible to select the right projects for funding. House Bill 2 (HB2), which the governor signed in 2014, directs the CTB to start scoring projects in July 2016. This new process will improve transparency and accountability because it will allow the public to better see how projects are selected and approved.

Finally, VDOT launched a new system to provide more ways for the public to contact VDOT’s Customer Service Center (CSC). Launched in 2010 to provide residents a consistent way to contact the agency any time – by phone or online – primarily to report road problems, the CSC has added Web chat and texting capabilities as well as “myVDOT,” a self-service website.

The new CSC system can provide status updates on a customer request by email, text or phone. It also can automatically assign most work orders to the appropriate area headquarters or regional work group, for a more efficient internal process.

Charlie Kilpatrick, P.E.
VDOT Commissioner

**Good drainage keeps roads safe**

VDOT began a program in June to inform the public that good drainage is essential for the health of Virginia’s roadways as well as for driver safety. The program encourages property owners statewide to learn how each resident contributes to ensuring roadside drainage systems work properly.

The tips include keeping ditches and other water channels on private property free of debris and other materials when those facilities are not part of a VDOT-owned or other public easement. VDOT also asks property owners to prevent leaves and grass clippings from accumulating on public right of way.

**Statewide Construction Quality Compliance**

Year-to-date construction CQIP rating

![Graph showing year-to-date construction CQIP rating](image)

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 end of FY 2015 show that quality compliance met the 91 percent target at 93.5 percent, as compared to the FY 2014 year-end rating of 93.8 percent.

**All Contracts Completed on Time and Within Budget**

![Graph showing on-time performance for all contracts](image)

Of the 230 construction and maintenance contracts scheduled for completion within FY 2015, 194 (84.3 percent) were completed on time.

![Graph showing on-budget performance for all contracts](image)

Of the 230 construction and maintenance contracts scheduled for completion within FY 2015, 204 (88.7 percent) were completed within budget.

**Scheduled Contracts Completed on Time**

![Graph showing on-time performance for construction contracts](image)

Of the 117 construction contracts scheduled for completion within FY 2015, 94 (80.3 percent) were completed on time.

![Graph showing on-time performance for maintenance contracts](image)

Of the 113 maintenance contracts scheduled for completion within FY 2015, 100 (88.5 percent) were completed on time.
**Major Projects**

- Gainesville interchange: The $230 million interchange at U.S. 29 and Linton Hall Road opened. The project, which began in 2009, includes more traffic lanes and two overpasses to bypass rail tracks.

- Stringfellow Road: The $62 million project improved two miles of roadway in Fairfax, adding two lanes in each direction from Fair Lakes Boulevard to U.S. 50.

**Virginia Automated Corridors**

The governor announced an initiative to make Virginia a leader in developing automated-vehicle technology. VDOT and the Department of Motor Vehicles joined with Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, Transurban and HERE — Nokia’s mapping business — to create the Virginia Automated Corridors. The effort will streamline the use of Virginia’s roads and state-of-the-art test facilities for automated-vehicle testing, certification and migration toward deployment.

**Awards and honors**

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO): VDOT’s Interstate 81 “in-place pavement recycling” project was named one of the nation’s 16 “high-value research” projects by AASHTO. The rebuilt pavement in Augusta County is providing excellent ride quality after three years of high-volume truck traffic.

- Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA): The Zion Crossroads diverging-diamond interchange project on U.S. 15 at Interstate 64 in Louisa County, the first such interchange in Virginia, received a merit award from DBIA’s Mid-Atlantic Region chapter.

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): Harinderber S. Warraich, P.E., Interstate 95 Express Lanes program manager, received an FHWA project excellence award for his “leadership and commitment in effectively administering the 95 Express Lanes.”

- George Mason University (GMU): Carl Jackson, Hampton Roads District transportation planner, placed third in GMU’s Cameron Rian Hays “Outside the Box” competition with his entry, “Skyways: A Sustainable Transportation Network for the Future.” GMU’s School of Policy, Government and International Affairs sponsors the event, which spotlights solutions to complicated transportation policy challenges.

- Governor’s Environmental Excellence Awards: The Elizabeth River Tunnels project received a Silver Environmental Projects Award for recycling and reuse at a rate of 99 percent; implementing onsite treatment of lead-contaminated soil to reduce hazardous waste; adopting environmentally friendly oil for all marine equipment; and using waste concrete to make oyster boxes to foster oyster spats in the river.

- Public Relations Society of America (PRSA): VDOT received the following Virginia Public Relations Awards from the Richmond PRSA chapter: award of excellence for media relations, I-64 wildlife research news release; and awards of merit for publications, 2014-2016 Virginia state map; community relations, I-95 bridge restoration project; and internal communications, electronic bulletin boards.

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**FY 2015 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME**

117 construction contracts were planned for completion within FY 2015. At least 92 of those 117 contracts needed to be delivered on time to meet the target of 77 percent.

**FY 2015 MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME**

113 maintenance contracts were planned for completion within FY 2015. At least 88 of those 113 contracts needed to be delivered on time to meet the target of 77 percent.

**CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET**

Of the 117 construction contracts scheduled for completion within FY 2015, 101 (86.3 percent) were completed within budget.

**MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS COMPLETED WITHIN BUDGET**

Of the 113 maintenance contracts scheduled for completion within FY 2015, 103 (91.2 percent) were completed within budget.