The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) continued its path to renewed excellence with a third straight quarter of exceeding its targets for completing construction and maintenance contracts both on time and on budget.

The agency will be able to fund more projects as the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved an $11.4 billion Six-Year Improvement Plan, $800 million more than last year’s program. The new program provides $9 billion for roads, highways, bridges and debt service, with the remainder going to rail, transit and other improvements. Most of this year’s increase came from public- and private-sector contributions for the Interstate 95 Express Lanes project, which recently broke ground in Northern Virginia.

Additionally, $160 million in financing from the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank will help advance a critical link of the Gloucester Parkway in Loudoun County and support the U.S. 460 corridor improvements linking the Port of Virginia to Interstate 95 and beyond to proceed. When completed, these projects will reduce congestion and improve driver safety along two critical routes in the state’s most populous regions. The bank is part of the governor’s $4 billion transportation package the General Assembly passed in 2011.

Private-sector participation in Virginia’s road-improvement projects is more vital than ever in today’s economy, and because of the foresight of those who drafted Virginia’s 1995 Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA), the number of such projects is now quite robust. The Office of Transportation Public-Private Partnerships (OTPP) has eight well-established projects in its pipeline, including several along Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads interstates, plus 14 under consideration.

VDOT and Elizabeth River Crossings reached financial close to begin construction on a new Midtown Tunnel in Hampton Roads. Financial close releases all funding needed to build the $2.1 billion project, expected to start this fall, which also includes extending Martin Luther King Boulevard and rehabilitating the existing Midtown and Downtown Tunnels.

Greg Whirley
Commissioner

**COMMISSIONER’S MESSAGE**

**NEW 511 AND ‘REACH THE BEACH’**

In time for summer travel, VDOT began two services that use mobile technology to improve driver mobility:

- Next-generation 511 travel information provides free mobile Android and iPhone apps plus an updated website, featuring quicker response, improved phone service and enhanced traffic videos.
- “Reach the Beach” electronic signs in Hampton Roads help motorists choose the quickest drive time to Virginia Beach and Outer Banks. The signs encourage travelers to use less-congested Interstate 664 when the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel has backups. Roadway sensors and other devices linked to the regional operations center supply the data.

**STATEWIDE CONSTRUCTION QUALITY COMPLIANCE**

Construction quality, as evaluated by VDOT’s Construction Quality Improvement Program (CQIP), measures project compliance with contract quality requirements. The evaluation is made through a critical assessment, guided by a checklist of more than 1,100 construction quality checkpoints. The results show VDOT’s commitment to building quality roads and bridges while seeking opportunity for continuous improvement.

Annual compliance results through the end of FY 2012 were 91.4 percent, ahead of the 91 percent target. This compares with the FY 2011 year-end rating of 92.1 percent.

**CONTRACTS COMPLETED BOTH ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET**

402 construction and maintenance contracts were due for completion by the end of the fourth quarter of FY 2012. Of those 402 contracts, 314 (78.1 percent) were completed both on time and within budget.

**SCHEDULED CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME**

77 construction contracts were due for completion by the end of the quarter. Of those 77 contracts, 66 (85.7 percent) were completed on time.

325 maintenance contracts were due for completion by the end of the quarter. Of those 325 contracts, 259 (79.7 percent) were completed on time.
**Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2012 Performance**

**NOTES**

- **Major projects**
  - Huguenot Memorial Bridge, Richmond: One new bridge opened to two-way traffic on Route 147 to allow demolition of existing 62-year-old structure. More than 2,000 attended event to celebrate historic bridge. Second bridge scheduled to open summer 2013.
  - Shadwell Bridge, eastern Albemarle County: U.S. 250 structure opened three weeks ahead of schedule. Project used innovative precast-concrete construction to speed work, cooperative outreach with county to reduce traffic delays.
  - Fort Eustis Boulevard, Hampton Roads: Project to widen road to four lanes and improve safety between Newport News and York County completed early.
  - Interstate 95 Bridge restorations, Richmond/Henrico County: Completed northbound bridge over Laburnum Avenue and southbound bridges over Boulevard exit ramp, Westwood Avenue and Boulevard.

- **Derecho damage extensive**
  VDOT coordinated with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management after severe straight-line winds and other strong storms blew through the state June 29-30, downing countless trees and power lines and incurring costly damages. They affected at least 325 roads statewide, mostly secondary routes and some primaries. FEMA approved federal disaster assistance for recovery.

- **Contract let for U.S. 29 bypass**
  The CTB awarded a nearly $136 million design-build contract in June for the 6.2-mile Charlottesville bypass.

- **Addendum for U.S. 460 RFPs**
  VDOT, with the OTP3, issued an addendum to its request for proposals to design, build and finance the project to add a limited-access toll road parallel to U.S. 460 between Prince George County and Suffolk. The addendum sets a new financial structure to make the project more feasible for private-sector involvement.

- **Safety Service Patrol expands**
  VDOT launched Safety Service Patrol units in Bristol, Culpeper, Salem and Staunton districts on several interstates (64, 66, 77, 81, 581). Patrols provide incident management and emergency response to reduce delays and improve mobility when accidents or other events occur. Regional transportation operations centers oversee the service.

- **Work Zone Awareness vigil**
  Families of two fallen workers attended the department’s annual sunset vigil in April at the VDOT Workers’ Memorial on Afton Mountain to commemorate national Work Zone Awareness Week. The event reminds motorists to use caution when driving near and in work zones.

- **Awards**
  - Seven VDOT communications programs and projects received statewide awards from the Commonwealth (Richmond) Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.
  - Hampton Roads District received a Hermes Platinum Award for its 2011 “Tale of Two Tunnels” public relations campaign.

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**FY 2012 Construction Contracts Completed on Time**

77 construction contracts were scheduled for completion during FY 2012. At least 58 of the 77 must be delivered on time to meet the 75 percent on-time target.

**FY 2012 Maintenance Contracts Completed on Time**

325 maintenance contracts were scheduled for completion during FY 2012. At least 251 of the 325 must be delivered on time to meet the 77 percent on-time target.

**Construction Contracts Completed Within Budget**

77 construction contracts were due for completion by the end of the quarter. Of those 77 contracts, 70 (90.9 percent) were completed within budget.

**Maintenance Contracts Completed Within Budget**

325 maintenance contracts were due for completion by the end of the quarter. Of those 325 contracts, 303 (93.2 percent) were completed within budget.