



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2013

## **Work Begins on Martin Luther King Extension**

*Construction slated for November 2013 to December 2016*

Portsmouth – The [Elizabeth River Tunnels](#) (ERT) Project team, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), will begin construction activities on the Martin Luther King (MLK) Extension in November. Scheduled work includes widening of roadway and bridges on Interstate 264 (I-264), replacement of the pedestrian bridge over I-264, extension of the MLK Expressway from London Boulevard to I-264 with an interchange at High Street, and aesthetic treatments from Turnpike Road to London Boulevard. This work will be performed through a series of lane closures, and temporary and permanent I-264 ramp closures.

Completion of these roadway improvements will create an efficient, connected transportation network. Motorists will have a more direct route to the Downtown Tunnel from Portsmouth and easily choose between the Midtown or Downtown tunnel during their commute. Additionally, new changeable message signs on the MLK Expressway will improve communication of traffic conditions to motorists.

Work is scheduled to begin November 2013 and continue through December 2016. Construction impacting I-264 includes:

- Permanent closure of I-264 East Des Moines Ave. exit ramp in November.
- Temporary closure of the London Blvd. interchanges starting in December.
- Temporary closure of the Frederick Blvd. exit ramp from I-264 East for up to 18 months in 1st Quarter 2014.
- Permanent closure of I-264 West South St. on ramp in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014.
- Single lane closures on I-264 east (in November) and west in 1st Quarter 2014.
- Temporary closure of I-264 Pedestrian Bridge near Frederick Blvd. for nine months in spring 2014 for removal and replacement.
- Short term I-264 closures at night for setting bridge beams over roadway.

Additional road closures will begin on Harbor Dr., Trexler Ave. and Columbus Ave. for bridge and roadway construction in spring 2014.

Additional advisories will be issued with specific dates as work is scheduled. A schedule of the closures and alternate routes can be found on [DriveERT.com](#). Specific lane closure information can be found on VDOT's [weekly lane closure forecast](#).

Visit [www.va511.org](#), call 511 or listen to Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) 1680 AM or call the VDOT Traffic Information Line at 757-361-3016 for current traffic and travel information.

Headquartered in Portsmouth, Virginia, Elizabeth River Crossings OpCo, LLC, is the private partner of the Virginia Department of Transportation for the design, construction, finance, operations and maintenance of the Elizabeth River Tunnels Project. For more information on the Elizabeth River Tunnels Project, visit [www.DriveERT.com](#). Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/DriveERT>.

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