



News Release

RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

Nov. 29, 2016

MARTIN LUTHER KING (MLK) EXPRESSWAY OPENS TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30

Toll-free extension opens one month ahead of schedule

PORTSMOUTH- The [Elizabeth River Tunnels](#) (ERT) Project team is pleased to announce the opening of the new VA 164 Martin Luther King (MLK) Expressway this Wednesday, Nov. 30. Motorists can expect to have access to the new expressway by evening rush hour. MLK signage at each of the ramps and along Interstate 264 (I-264) will be uncovered tonight in preparation for opening the MLK to traffic on Wednesday.

“The new toll-free MLK Expressway offers enhanced connectivity options for improved regional mobility,” said Dan Norman, ERC Construction Director. “Motorists will now have a more direct connection between the U.S. 58 Midtown Tunnel and the I-264 Downtown Tunnel, providing additional travel options at key regional choke points.”

Construction of the mile-long MLK Expressway began in Nov. 2013. The new expressway extends the VA 164 Martin Luther King Freeway in Portsmouth from London Boulevard to I-264, providing a direct route for motorists between the Downtown and Midtown tunnels.

Additionally, changeable message signs installed near the entrance points to the expressway on I-264 and VA 164 will communicate traffic conditions to motorists in real time, allowing commuters to make informed decisions on their chosen route and avoid congestion.

This new expressway will enable motorists to avoid congestion at regional choke points including the I-64 Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel in Hampton and Norfolk, and the convergence of I-64, I-264, I-664 and U.S. 58 at the Bowers Hill interchange in Chesapeake. Additional information on connectivity can be found [here](#).

The MLK Expressway features nine new or reconfigured ramps including two at High Street, two at London Boulevard, one at Frederick Boulevard and four ramps at the new I-264 interchange. Additional aesthetic treatments were applied to the new extension from London Boulevard to Turnpike Road, and nearly 47,000 square feet of noise walls were constructed. Additionally, the newly constructed pedestrian bridge over I-264 near Frederick Boulevard provides added safety features with increased lighting and access.

Headquartered in Portsmouth, Virginia, Elizabeth River Crossings OpCo, LLC, is the private partner of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the design, construction, finance, operations and maintenance of the Elizabeth River Tunnels (ERT) Project, with SKW Constructors, JV (a Skanska, Kiewit, Weeks Marine Joint Venture) as a design-build contractor. More information can be found at www.DriveERT.com. Follow us on [Twitter](#).

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