OVERVIEW

January and February brought out the best in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) as more record snows fell on the commonwealth after the December blizzard. Thanks to our extensive emergency response preparations, VDOT kept Virginia moving during this historic winter season.

The governor led the state’s recognition of VDOT’s heroic and dedicated field crews and other staff who worked together to keep roads passable and motorists safe. When we saw Northern Virginia would bear the brunt of the second February storm with more than 30 inches of snow, we deployed approximately 200 pieces of equipment and many staff from other VDOT districts to shore up that region’s snow-clearing capacity. I also commend each employee who worked long hours through these storms as well as the late January flooding events that inundated areas of central and western Virginia.

This winter’s cleanup cost VDOT $263 million, more than triple the budgeted $79.6 million. We likely will recoup some of this through federal reimbursements, but we stand by our pledge to make Virginia’s roadways safe for drivers despite funding challenges. VDOT conducted after-action reviews internally and with our external partners to evaluate our performance during these storms and implement lessons learned.

VDOT announced the final phase of its restructuring and staffing cuts under the Blueprint for Our Future that addresses the six-year $4.6 billion revenue shortfall. During the quarter, we made additional adjustments in key business areas—such as contracting, pavement and equipment management and customer service—that will help us retain key expertise in these core functions.

Finally, in response to the governor’s January directive, VDOT reopened the 19 interstate safety rest areas closed in 2009 because of the funding shortfall. And per two joint resolutions from the 2010 General Assembly, the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC) is studying alternatives to public funding and operations for rest areas.

Greg Whirley
Acting Commissioner

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 third quarter of both years surpassed the 91 percent target, with FY 2009 achieving 92.2 percent and FY 2010 attaining a 92.3 percent rating.

150,000 Potholes Filled During Blitz

After a winter for Virginia’s record books, the governor on March 1 announced a statewide pothole blitz, directing VDOT to focus on patching the countless potholes resulting from this season’s harsh weather. Wet conditions in March caused even more pavement failures needing attention, so the governor extended the pothole blitz into April. By mid-month, VDOT had patched more than 150,000 potholes, with the program continuing through the spring.

VDOT’s website has an online work-request form so the public can report potholes and other hazards on state-maintained roads. This helped the agency track where its maintenance crews were needed most during this successful campaign.

ALL CONTRACTS COMPLETED: BOTH ON TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET

246 construction and maintenance contracts were due for completion by period-end. Of those 246 contracts, 204 (82.9 percent) were completed both on time and within budget.

SCHEDULED CONTRACTS COMPLETED ON TIME

62 construction contracts were due for completion by period-end. Of those 62 contracts, 41 (66.1 percent) were completed on time.

184 maintenance contracts were due for completion by period-end. Of those 184 contracts, 169 (91.8 percent) were completed on time.
**All Stimulus Road Funding Obligated**

On Feb. 24, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved VDOT’s final project using American Reinvestment and Recovery Act money to improve state roads. Virginia received $694.5 million in highway funding under the stimulus legislation, which included 68 projects obligated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and 54 by metropolitan planning organizations.

**Interim Agreement for Tunnels Signed**

VDOT signed the interim agreement that advances a private-sector proposal to develop and/or operate the Downtown Tunnel/Midtown Tunnel/Martin Luther King Extension Public-Private Transportation Act Project in Hampton Roads. The interim agreement with Elizabeth River Crossings, LLC, will advance the required preliminary work on the project.

**New Route 1 Bridge Reopens**

The secretary of transportation led state and local officials in celebrating the replacement of the flood-prone Route 1 bridge over Neabsco Creek in Northern Virginia. The $18 million project in Prince William County was finished on budget and opened six months ahead of schedule.

**Springfield Interchange Meets Budget**

VDOT completed the eight-year construction project to improve safety and ease congestion at the Springfield Interchange on Interstate 95 within its budget of $676.3 million. FHWA concurred in January with VDOT’s final documented expenditures of $658.7 million for the project, plus $17.6 million to cover contractor claims. After the project began in 1999, costs quickly escalated beyond the original estimate of $350 million. The low estimate led to a major shift in how VDOT does business, including revamping the Six-Year Improvement Program and creating the “Dashboard,” an online performance reporting system for projects and programs.

**Lowest Number of Traffic Fatalities**

Virginia recorded 750 traffic fatalities in 2009, the lowest since 1966, and a 27 percent drop from 1,026 in 2007. The downward trend can be attributed in part to coordination among state agencies, including VDOT, to reduce Virginia’s traffic fatalities. The lowest previous toll was 839 in 1992.

**3 VDOT Projects Honored**

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Virginia presented Engineering Excellence Awards to three firms for their work on VDOT projects: Eltham Bridge (West Point), Pinnacle Award, Parsons Brinckerhoff; Interstate 64-Battlefield Boulevard Interchange, Honor Award, Kimley-Horn & Associates; and Route 66-Massanutten Resort Drive, Merit Award, AMT.

**TRB Names 9 Papers “Practice Ready”**

The Transportation Research Board cited nine papers from VDOT and the VTRC as “practice ready.” Practice-ready papers contain research results that help solve current or future transportation issues and are ready for immediate implementation.

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**FY 2010 Construction Contracts Completed on Time**

- **Construction Contracts Completed on Time**: 75 percent of construction contracts were actually completed by period-end. Of those 57 contracts, 52 (91.2 percent) were completed ahead of schedule.

**FY 2010 Maintenance Contracts Completed on Time**

- **Maintenance Contracts Completed on Time**: 77 percent of maintenance contracts were actually completed by period-end. Of those 182 contracts, 175 (96.2 percent) were completed within budget.

**Construction Contracts Completed Within Budget**

- **Construction Contracts Completed Within Budget**: 57 construction contracts were actually completed by period-end. Of those 57 contracts, 52 (91.2 percent) were completed within budget.

**Maintenance Contracts Completed Within Budget**

- **Maintenance Contracts Completed Within Budget**: 182 maintenance contracts were actually completed by period-end. Of those 182 contracts, 175 (96.2 percent) were completed within budget.