COMMISSIONER’S MESSAGE

We have made unprecedented strides to improve transportation in some of the most congested areas of the Commonwealth.

On Jan. 29, Gov. Ralph Northam announced agreements signed with private partner Transurban to invest more than $1 billion in four transportation infrastructure projects along Interstate 495 and Interstate 95 in Northern Virginia and Fredericksburg. These are critical projects that will help move people, goods and services more efficiently in one of the busiest regions of the country.

In March, an historic financing agreement for the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT) Expansion Project was approved by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC), committing $3.56 billion for the Interstate 64 HRBT expansion work. This was the result of unparalleled cooperation between HRTAC, local and state leaders, VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

The same month, Gov. Northam announced amendments to legislation passed by the General Assembly providing $280 million annually in new transportation funding, including $151 million in dedicated annual funding for the Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Plan. The amendments ensure that the $2 billion program approved by the CTB in December 2018 is implemented and work can begin to address congestion and incidents along the 81 corridor. These amendments also establish dedicated funding for I-95 and I-64.

As this quarter comes to a close, construction season is starting, and seasonal travel is beginning to increase. That means more of our crew members and contractors are on the highways. In this report, we look at work zone crash statistics. In 2018, crashes, injuries and fatalities in work zones decreased, but it does not mean we can rest when it comes to safety.

Stephen C. Brich, P.E.
VDOT Commissioner

SMART SCALE PROJECTS

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

There are 318 SMART SCALE projects being tracked in the development phase; 249 (78.3%) are progressing on schedule and 263 (82.7%) are tracking on budget. Thirty-five of the 318 projects are scheduled to be awarded within FY 2019, and 12 of those 35 projects have been awarded to date.

Source: SMART SCALE Dashboard

PROJECT DELIVERY

There are 47 SMART SCALE projects being tracked under the delivery phase, and 12 of these are planned for completion within FY 2019. Forty-four (93.6%) of the 47 projects are progressing on time and 37 (78.7%) within budget.

Source: SMART SCALE Dashboard

2018 WORK ZONE CRASHES BY THE NUMBERS

In Virginia

2,523 work zone crashes

1,256 injured
54% work zone crashes were rear-end collisions
89% occurred in dry weather
68% happened during daylight hours

9 killed
18%

Statewide, the majority of work zone crashes involved drivers between the ages of 20 and 24 years old.

Two of the leading causes of crashes in work zones are driving too fast for conditions or driving distracted.

482 distracted driving crashes reported in work zones
19%

2019 legislation, effective July 1, prohibits motorists from holding a handheld personal communications device while driving in a highway work zone.
**VDOT NOTES**

**Major Projects**

- **I-664/Monter-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel:** Notice to proceed was granted on a contract to divert seepage at the open cut sections of the Interstate 664/Monter-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel. The fixed completion date is May 17, 2019. The $2.5 million contract was awarded to Curtis Contracting.

- **I-64/I-264 Project Milestone:** The Interstate 64/I-264 Interchange Improvements Phase I project reached a major milestone in January, with traffic successfully shifted to a new ramp and collector-distributor road. The work was completed ahead of schedule.

- **Chincoteague Bridge:** The Chincoteague Bridge project in Accomack County received final environmental compliance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Quality. Bridge construction was completed by 2012, but the project permit required establishment of wetlands. This clearance marks the completion of all efforts by VDOT to maintain that area.

- **Route 606 (Mudd Tavern Road) I-95 Overpass Project Milestone:** Traffic exiting Interstate 95 northbound at Exit 118 (Thornburg) in Spotsylvania County was shifted onto a new off-ramp. The $22.4 million project will replace the Mudd Tavern Road overpass and improve the Exit 118 interchange. The project seeks to reduce congestion, accommodate future growth and enhance safety in the Thornburg area.

**Awards and Honors**

**Keep America Beautiful:** VDOT’s Adopt-a-Highway program received the State Agency Partnership Recognition Award during the annual national Keep America Beautiful awards ceremony. The award celebrates the program and the work done to retain and recruit new permit holders, maintain contact with current permit holders and highlight efforts to showcase the benefits and work done by Adopt-a-Highway volunteers.

**National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA):** Three projects in Richmond District received awards from NAPA in the “Quality in Construction” category. The projects, on Interstate 85 in Mecklenburg County, Interstate 95 in Chesterfield and Prince George counties, and I-85 in Brunswick County, were described by NAPA leadership as “high-quality projects that delivered superior performance to the traveling public.”

**American Council of Engineering Companies:** VDOT was presented the Honor Award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Virginia for the Pulse Bus Rapid Transit design-build project in the Richmond District.

**Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS):** Fredericksburg District Engineer and current acting Chief of Maintenance and Operations Marcie Parker, P.E., was named Woman of the Year by WTS - Central Virginia Chapter. Additionally, the Hampton Roads Chapter of WTS selected Senior Project Manager Janet Hedrick as its Woman of the Year and Hampton Roads Civil Rights Manager Queen Crittendon for its Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award.