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 for both years surpassed the 91 percent target, with FY2011 achieving a 92.1 percent rating.

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Extreme weather leaves its mark
April was a cruel month for Virginia as tornadoes and other severe weather tore destructive paths through the commonwealth. At least 30 tornadoes hit the state in three events between Apr. 8 and Apr. 28 in addition to other major storm systems that produced high winds, heavy rain and flooding.

VDOT put its emergency-response plan to the test as crews and other staff worked non-stop to clear affected roads and inform the public of its efforts to ensure driver safety. Crews from around the state assisted districts affected by the storms, all in preparation for the hurricane season to come.

COMMISSIONER’S MESSAGE

The 2012-2017 Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP) the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopted in June provides $8.3 billion for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Our budget for the 2012 fiscal year is $4.8 billion, a 43 percent increase from the $3.3 billion FY 2011 budget.

The FY 2012 budget provides $2.3 billion for highway construction, more than double the FY 2011 amount. It also includes $1.8 billion for highway maintenance and operations and locality street maintenance payments.

The additions in the new SYIP and the FY 2012 budget are a direct result of funding the governor provided in his transportation package. This significant infusion of extra money will support the $1 billion in projects we are advertising between July and December 2011. These new projects will do their part to fuel economic growth and provide needed improvements to Virginia’s transportation infrastructure.

Demonstrating our continued efficiency with taxpayer dollars, we met all of our on-budget goals for FY 2011. We did not meet on-time targets in FY 2011 as we purposefully extended many contracts past their original completion date to complete more paving.

The FY 2012 business plan we developed earlier this year will set a definitive course for VDOT. It supports the governor’s larger multimodal strategic plan. I will use this quarterly report to provide updates on our progress in meeting the business plan initiatives.

We reinstated the Commissioner’s Awards for Outstanding Achievement. The Commissioner’s Awards recognize high-performing employees based on specific, measurable and outstanding accomplishments that positively affect our business.

Finally, I want to thank our employees who responded quickly to ensure our roads and bridges were safe after a historic earthquake rocked Virginia and then turned around to assist affected areas after Hurricane Irene – both in the same week in late August. Their work exemplifies the dedication of our employees.

Greg Whirley
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 for both years surpassed the 91 percent target, with FY2011 achieving a 92.1 percent rating.

418 construction contracts were due for completion by the end of FY 2011. Of those 418 contracts, 244 (58.2 percent) were completed on time.

346 construction and maintenance contracts were due for completion by the end of FY 2011. Of those 346 contracts, 229 (66.2 percent) were completed both on time and within budget.

254 maintenance contracts were due for completion by the end of FY 2011. Of those 254 contracts, 168 (66.1 percent) were completed on time.
Public-Private Partnerships office
The Virginia Office of Transportation Public-Private Partnerships (OTP3) opened. It will develop and implement a statewide program to deliver transportation projects via the state’s Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995. Tony Kinn is the new OTP3 director.

Fleet program honored
Government Fleet magazine named Erle Potter, P.E., state equipment manager, as one of three finalists for its 2011 Public Sector Fleet Manager of the Year award. Potter was recognized for configuring, implementing and developing training for VDOT’s new equipment fleet-management information system; expanding the use of vehicle diagnostic laptops in VDOT shops; and cutting workload by reducing the fleet by 8 percent through utilization management.

Quiet-pavement pilots initiated
VDOT targeted several multi-lane primary roads scheduled for repaving this year to receive driving surfaces that may help reduce tire noise. The General Assembly passed legislation directing VDOT and its Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research (VCTIR) to conduct a two-year pilot project using various quiet-pavement technologies to determine and report on their performance throughout Virginia. A recent VCTIR study found that, based on initial cost and performance over a year, the material used in the quiet-pavement asphalt mix provides a better driving surface at little to no additional cost when compared with traditional hot mixes.

Work zone awareness vigil held
Secretary Connaughton and others addressed a sunset vigil at the VDOT Workers’ Memorial during April’s National Work Zone Awareness Week. The audience included family members of those whose names are etched on the monument. This year’s theme — “Safer Driving. Safer Work Zones. For Everyone.” — emphasized how drivers can keep everyone safe in highway work zones.

Port Republic Road opens
Staunton District opened a 1.5-mile section of the busy Port Republic Road in Harrisonburg, six months ahead of its January 2012 scheduled completion date. The $10.1 million project increased the road’s capacity in a growing area near a major hospital.

Bridge replaced in six hours
Culpeper District’s state force bridge crew closed a small bridge in southern Albemarle County the morning of June 1. By 3 p.m., a new bridge was in place and open for traffic. After site preparation, the crew lifted and placed five pre-cast deck sections with built-in beams and guardrails. Workers finished the project, which included tensioning the beams, grouting joints, placing asphalt, repairing shoulders and adding more guardrails, in time for the school buses. Culpeper and Staunton districts both use these special crews to fabricate bridge beams in-house, truck them to the site and set the structure in place.

Of the 92 construction contracts scheduled for completion by the end of FY 2011, 80 contracts (87 percent) were completed within budget.

Of the 254 maintenance contracts scheduled for completion by the end of FY 2011, 229 contracts (90.2 percent) were completed within budget.