

# Virginians for Better Transportation



Moving the Commonwealth Forward

Since 2013, Virginia has experienced transportation legislation that has greatly impacted the state's transportation network. House Bill 2313, passed in 2013, was the largest transportation funding package in the state's history and the first new wave of transportation funding to be approved in more than 25 years. The following year, House Bill 2 was created to ensure HB2313's funding was distributed through an objective scoring process, ensuring that every area of Virginia—from rural to urban—would be considered. In 2015, House Bill 1887 was passed, further refining HB2's scoring process by setting additional parameters for HB2313's funding. Today, we are seeing the impacts of these bills across the Commonwealth as needed projects come to life.

## MAJOR MILESTONES

**In quarter three**, Virginia saw advancement on two of the state's most congested roadways, **Interstate 64 in Hampton Roads** and **Interstate 66 in Northern Virginia**. A heavily traveled portion of **I-64 in Newport News** is being widened from four to six lanes, which is expected to reduce traffic delays and improve safety. A major project for **Northern Virginia's** frenzied **I-66** is on track to improve congestion both inside and outside the beltway. These transportation initiatives, in addition to many other projects around the Commonwealth, are possible thanks to HB2313.

**Phase III of Route 58 from Abingdon to Damascus**, a 2.6 mile widening project wrapped up ahead of schedule in July. The Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Six-Year Improvement Plan includes funding for the fourth and final phase of the Route 58 widening. As part of the **Route 58 Corridor Development Program**, this project will help promote economic development in Virginia's southwest region.

Under HB2, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) has begun the process of scoring transportation infrastructure projects throughout Virginia. The CTB has received applications for **321 projects** and will release their evaluation of projects in January.

## IMPROVING VIRGINIA'S ROADS ONE BILL AT A TIME

### HB2313 | THE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING BILL 2013

- Prior to HB2313, Virginia's transportation funding program was on life support. This bill helped bring it back to life.
- HB2313 is the first new wave of revenue designated specifically for transportation since 1986 and is the largest transportation-funding package in the state's history.
- The bill has already impacted major projects such as Route 29, Interstate 64 and Interstate 66.

### HB2 | THE SCORING BILL 2014

- With the infusion of new money, HB2 ensures all of Virginia's transportation projects, whether they are in rural towns or urban cities, will be viewed on a level playing field.
- Transportation projects will be measured using six factors including safety, congestion mitigation and economic development.
- Once projects are graded, the score will be divided by project cost, giving rural areas a boost since their projects tend to cost less.

### HB1887 | THE SPENDING BILL 2015

- Under HB1887, revenue spending will be designated into three categories: State of Good Repair (45%), High Priority Projects (27%) and District Grant Program (27.5%).
- Thanks to HB1887, more funding will be spent bringing current roads and infrastructure back to acceptable levels.
- Once a project is selected for funding, it should move forward without delay. Prior to HB1887, projects were often interrupted while funding was sorted.

# Construction Highlights in the Commonwealth

## TRANSFORMING 66: OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

**Status:** Qualifications proposals submitted in September 2015.

**Impact:** Reduce congestion outside the beltway while allowing for an increased number of people traveling.

**Cost:** \$2.1 billion

## I-64 CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS

NEWPORT NEWS

**Status:** Under construction. Phase II is projected to be awarded in 2015.

**Impact:** : Provide immediate congestion relief by widening a four-lane section to a six-lane section.

**Cost:** \$122 million

## DOMINION BOULEVARD PROJECT

CHESAPEAKE

**Status:** Under construction; 71% complete as of August 2015; estimated completion is April 2017.

**Impact:** Enhances safety through less congestion, less stops and faster public safety response times.

**Cost:** \$345.2 million

## ELIZABETH RIVER TUNNELS

HAMPTON ROADS

**Status:** Construction milestone was met in July 2015 when the last tunnel element was placed, connecting Portsmouth and Norfolk.

**Impact:** Reduces travel times and safety risks, as well as increases regional economic development benefits.

**Cost:** \$1.47 billion

## ROUTE 58 WIDENING, PHASE III

BRISTOL

**Status:** Completed in July 2015.

**Impact:** Increases mobility by widening the 36-mile corridor between Hillsville and Stuart.

**Cost:** \$27 million

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