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### COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY ADVANCES ROUTE 460 CONNECTOR SLATED FOR DESIGN

RICHMOND, Va. - Action by Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board today moves the first section of the Coalfields Expressway a step closer to construction, and starts design on a new Route 460 Connector highway linking the Coalfields Expressway to Kentucky. The board approved the statewide Six-Year Transportation Program that includes approximately \$81 million for the two projects.

"I support the Coalfields Expressway, and am pleased that this important economic development project is advancing forward. Also, linking the Coalfields Expressway to Kentucky via the connector road will benefit the multi-state Appalachian region and boost tourism to the Breaks Interstate Park," said Governor Mark R. Warner.

Funds will be used to complete the design of the first segment of the Coalfields Expressway and accrue money for right-of-way and construction. Under Virginia's Public-Private Transportation Act, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has a comprehensive agreement with Kellogg, Brown & Root of Houston, Texas to design and build the Coalfields Expressway as a public-private partnership.

"We are excited about working with our private partners under the comprehensive agreement. Our best shot at getting construction started is to zero in on a specific segment of the project, and that's exactly what we are doing," said VDOT Commissioner Philip A. Shucet.

The first segment of the Coalfields Expressway, identified as Section A, stretches 6.5-miles from Bull Gap to Harman Junction in Buchanan County. The four-lane highway will be constructed on a new location beginning about a half-mile southeast of Route 609 near Bull Gap and ending near Harman Junction approximately a mile west of the existing intersection of Route 460 and Route 656.

Additionally, funds were allocated to design a new Route 460 Connector, and begin accruing money for construction. The four-lane highway will link the first segment of the Coalfields Expressway from the Bull Gap interchange to Route 460 in Kentucky, which will provide improved access to the Breaks Interstate Park. The 4-mile Route 460 Connector highway is slated to be designed and built under VDOT's traditional methods and is not part of the public-private agreement.

The Six-Year Transportation Program and more information about the Coalfields Expressway is on VDOT's website, [www.VirginiaDOT.org](http://www.VirginiaDOT.org). Additionally, a map showing the location of [Section A of the Coalfields Expressway and the Route 460 Connector Road](#) is available here.

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