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# Programs

## TENTATIVE SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM RELEASED

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) voted to accept the Tentative Six-Year Program, May 16, 2002. The program, which serves as a road-map for funding transportation projects across Virginia, allocates a total of \$ 7.2 billion over the next six fiscal years, \$2.9 billion less than the program approved last year.

"No doubt tough decisions are being made to deliver a transportation program that is truly credible and realistic," said Transportation Secretary Whitt Clement.

[View Updated Program](#)

"The Tentative Six-Year Program is based on realistic revenue estimates and responsible business practices. It makes the best use possible of all resources available to transportation."

Project delays and eliminations are necessary for these reasons:

- Due to the downturn in the economy, federal and state revenues are reduced. This includes the elimination of most of the state general funds that had been provided for construction projects in the Virginia Transportation Act (VTA) of 2000.
- VDOT is recommending a more responsible growth rate for highway maintenance work. This increase is needed to protect the taxpayers' investment in Virginia's growing and aging transportation system. This increased investment further decreases construction funding.
- The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) updated cost estimates for many projects that were significantly too low.

The Tentative Six-Year Program recommends paying for construction projects by the year of completion, canceling those projects that have no foreseeable sources of construction funding, using realistic cost estimates and achievable project schedules, and making a major commitment to rail and public transportation.

"VDOT has worked extremely hard to reshape a transportation program that is achievable and realistic," said VDOT Commissioner Philip A. Shucet. "We are doing our level best to put together a program that Virginia can count on."

The draft program is divided in two phases: development and construction. Projects in the development phase are in the planning stages and do not yet have the funding available to advance to construction. Projects in the construction phase have funding to begin building over the next six fiscal years.

Work on projects is prioritized as follows:

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- Complete construction projects already under contract
- Advance projects in latter stages of right of way acquisition and utility relocation
- Continue projects that address critical safety, mobility and environmental issues

The public will have another opportunity to provide comments before the final Six Year Program is approved June 20. Public hearings will be held in two locations on June 5:

9 a.m. Wytheville Community College  
Grayson Hall  
1000 E. Main St.  
Wytheville

2 p.m. VDOT Central Office Auditorium  
1221 E. Broad St.  
Richmond

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Frank Dorman (804) 255-4911

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