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*Board encourages
rail study, short-
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improvements,
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widening*

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2/21/2002

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Latest Action from the Commonwealth Transportation Board

Richmond-The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) awarded seven contracts worth approximately \$21 million during its monthly meeting in Richmond on Thursday.

Projects awarded are federally funded and will not impact state dollars.

The major projects awarded this month include Cowan Blvd. & I-95, a \$10.6 million contract to help relieve congestion on Route 3 and provide additional access to medical facilities on the east side of I-95 in Fredericksburg. The CTB awarded the project to W.C. English, Inc. of Lynchburg, Virginia.

In Salem, \$1.4 million worth of safety improvements will be made to various entrance and exit lanes along I-81. Branch Highways, Inc. of Roanoke, Virginia will lengthen sub-standard acceleration and deceleration lanes at selected exits to provide a safer merging zone.

The CTB also approved the location and design of replacing I-81 bridges and approaches at Maury River in Rockbridge County, and the construction of Route 895 (Airport Connector Road) in Henrico County.

VDOT informed the CTB that previously awarded projects which were put on hold are anticipated to begin construction in the spring.

Approximately 120 contracts worth nearly \$255 million that were awarded by the CTB from October of 2001 to January of 2002 were delayed in light of the uncertain economy.

Many of the federally funded projects have been given the go-ahead to begin work. State funded construction projects are anticipated to begin in April or May.

Repaving contracts are scheduled to be signed in March. Normally, work on those projects doesn't begin until the spring because warm weather is necessary to repave roads.

Commonwealth Transportation Board Facts

Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)- The 17-member CTB guides VDOT's work, much like a board of directors. The Secretary of Transportation serves as chairman and VDOT's Commissioner as vice-chairman. Members are appointed by the Governor and approved by the General Assembly. The Director of Rail and Public Transportation also serves as a non-voting member of the board. Board meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. One of

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the CTB's primary responsibilities is to approve project contract awards recommended by VDOT.

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