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4/18/2002

Transportation Board Awards over \$60 Million for Construction and Maintenance Projects

RICHMOND - The Commonwealth Transportation Board on Thursday awarded 43 contracts for construction and maintenance work valued at \$60.1 million.

The largest project, worth \$30.3 million, is the first phase of a two-phase design to provide access to the recently built Stafford County Regional Airport from I-95 and U.S. Route 1. The project includes a diamond interchange at I-95, westbound collector-distributor lanes on the I-95/Route 627 interchange mainline from the new Airport Connector Road to Route 1, widening Route 1 to six lanes, replacing the Route 627 bridge over I-95, and realigning Routes 627 and 753. The contract, awarded to Moore Bros. Co., Inc. of Verona, is scheduled for completion next spring.

Among the other projects, seven variable message signs will be installed on Interstate 81, northbound and southbound near Lexington, Harrisonburg and Winchester to provide weather, incident, event and construction information - two such signs already operate near Staunton. The \$831,750 contract was awarded to Davis H. Elliott Co., Inc. of Roanoke, and is scheduled for completion before December 2003.

Many of the projects awarded this month include improvements to secondary roads (Route numbers 600 and up). The CTB awarded 26 contracts for secondary projects worth \$15 million. These projects, originally scheduled to be approved in December 2001 though February 2002, were delayed because of the budget shortfall. As a result of strong cash flow management, VDOT is able to move ahead with the improvements.

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