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*Board encourages rail study, short-term safety improvements, long-term widening*

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**Transportation Board Approves Sale of Bonds for Road and Transit Projects**

**Board also awards \$15.8 million worth of construction contracts**

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) today approved VDOT to sell bonds and notes to fund various projects throughout the state. In the fall, VDOT will sell \$570 million worth of Federal Reimbursement Anticipation Notes (FRANs). Those proceeds will go to the following:

Highway construction projects - \$201 million  
 Mass transit and rail - \$52 million  
 Replace the loss of VDOT's revenue sources that were used to help balance the statewide budget - \$317 million

The CTB also approved VDOT to sell \$129 million in revenue bonds this fall for improvements to Route 28 in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

The revenue bond sale will partially fund improvements to a 14-mile stretch of Route 28 between I-66 in Fairfax County and Route 7 in Loudoun County. The current Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA) proposal calls for construction of six of the 10 interchanges planned for the corridor and widening the road from six to eight lanes. It is anticipated a comprehensive PPTA agreement will be signed by Oct. 1, 2002.

In other action, the CTB awarded 25 construction contracts worth \$15.8 million. The largest is a \$5.1 million contract to replace the existing Route 669 bridge over I-81 in Frederick County. This project includes interchange improvements. The contract was awarded to APAC-Virginia, Inc. of Stephenson, Va.

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