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More than \$30 Million Approved for State Transportation Projects

CTB also approves changes to logo program and dedicates two bridges in honor of military heroes

RICHMOND - The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved \$30.3 million for 39 construction and maintenance contracts during its monthly board meeting on Sept. 20.

The largest amount, \$11.5 million, went to New Construction, Inc. of Vienna, Virginia to complete building new road access for the Smithsonian Institution National Air & Space Museum in Dulles Center. This work will be closely coordinated with the museum building contractor to meet the grand opening of the new museum in December 2003. The museum expects an average of two to three million visitors per year. This project is part of Governor Gilmore's commitment to promote economic development and education in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) expects to complete road work within the museum site in August of 2003.

I-66 Multimodal Transportation Study The CTB approved a contract with Dewberry & Davis, LLP of Fairfax, Virginia to conduct an environmental study for transportation improvements in the I-66 corridor from the Route 15 interchange in Prince William County to the Capital Beltway interchange in Fairfax County. This study will evaluate multimodal improvements in the 24-mile corridor. Improvements that have been recommended by a Major Investment Study include extending Metrorail to the Centreville area, increasing bus service and developing more park-and-ride facilities in the I-66 corridor.

Changes to Logo Program In other action, the Board approved changes to improve Virginia's logo sign program and stimulate more funding to enhance motorist services. The annual fee businesses pay to have their logo on the blue interstate signs will increase from \$375 to \$750 per direction. The cost increase will cover administration and contract expenses. Additional revenue will also be reinvested into improving motorist service signing. Other changes streamline the administrative process and enable more food businesses to participate. Changes are based on recommendations made by a task force of representatives from tourism, lodging, convenience stores, gas stations and other interstate businesses that serve motorists. Nearly 2,300 businesses are involved with the program.

Bridges to Honor Military Heroes The CTB designated the Route 156 (Cold Harbor Road) bridge over Interstate 295 in Hanover County as the "Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Kenneth Eugene Clodfelter -USS Cole Bridge." The bridge is named after a

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Mechanicsville native who was killed along with 16 other soldiers in the terrorist bombing of the USS Cole on October 12, 2000 while the destroyer was refueling Aden, Yeman. The bridge will be dedicated on October 26 at 10 a.m. in a ceremony open to the public.

The CTB also designated Route 58 over the Rhody Creek in Patrick County as the "Winfred B. Branch Memorial Bridge." Branch served in the United States Army during World War II and received the Distinguished Service Cross in 1944 for his gallantry and heroric service during the invasion of Sicily.

CTB Background The 17-member Commonwealth Transportation Board appointed by the Governor meets on the third Thursday of each month. The Board is primarily responsible for locating routes, approving construction contracts, creating traffic regulations, naming highways and administering and allocating the Transportation Trust Fund. Virginia Secretary of Transportation Shirley Ybarra is chairperson of the Board.

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