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*[Board encourages rail study, short-term safety improvements, long-term widening](#)*

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### **Transportation Board Gives Approval To \$9.9 Billion Transportation Draft Plan For Virginia**

RICHMOND- The largest transportation program in Virginia's history continues for a second year following the Commonwealth Transportation Board's approval today of a draft plan to invest nearly \$10 billion for highways, public transportation, airports and ports during the next six years. The tentative Virginia Transportation Development Plan (VTDP) specifies funding allocations for 1,436 individual projects on interstate highways, primary roads, urban streets and public transportation throughout Virginia.

"The CTB and VDOT have worked diligently to fulfill our pledge to deliver a record breaking construction program that will help relieve congestion and improve the transportation system in every area of the Commonwealth," said Transportation Secretary Shirley J. Ybarra. "VDOT has an average of more than 600 construction and maintenance projects worth nearly \$3 billion underway at any one time."

Among the major projects in the tentative VTDP is Virginia's share of building a new I-95 Woodrow Wilson Bridge, a top priority transportation project for both the Commonwealth and the East Coast. Major funding continues for the construction of the Springfield Interchange in Northern Virginia, a massive project that is running ahead of schedule. Funding continues for I-64 widening in Richmond and Hampton Roads, I-81 safety improvements in the Shenandoah Valley and southwestern Virginia, and Route 58 improvements across southern Virginia.

"VDOT is moving forward with completing projects ahead of schedule while being careful stewards of taxpayer dollars and the environment," said Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner Charles D. "Chip" Nottingham. "Under Governor Gilmore's leadership, investment in transportation projects increased 97 percent statewide and 117 percent in Northern Virginia."

The tentative VTDP reflects the second year of record funding provided by the Virginia Transportation Act of 2000. The General Assembly and Governor Gilmore put critical projects on the fast track by pumping an additional \$3 billion into projects. The legislature designated the funds to specific projects. More than one-third of those projects are either completed or in the process of building. Most of the remaining priority projects are either in the right-of-way or preliminary engineering phase.

This year the tentative VTDP is split in two categories. The feasibility document lists projects at their most tentative stage, these projects have not been advanced to the construction phase. The Capital Improvement document lists projects that are moving forward to construction. Based upon current cost estimates and revenue projections, construction on these projects is expected to begin within

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the next six years. The entire document can be viewed online. See [VTDP Plan](#).

The CTB will hold two public hearings on the tentative VTDP  
**December 6:**

**For residents of Western Virginia:**

9 a.m.,  
Clarion Hotel  
3315 Ordway Drive  
Roanoke

**For residents of Central, Northern and Eastern Virginia:**

2 p.m.,  
VDOT Auditorium  
1221 East Broad Street  
Richmond

Following the public hearings, the CTB is expected to give approval to the final plan during its monthly meeting in December.

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