

A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION FOR HAMPTON ROADS

Communities and businesses alike throughout the Hampton Roads region will benefit from the completion of the Downtown Tunnel / Midtown Tunnel / MLK Extension Project. The region's future prosperity depends on a thriving local economy, which in turn requires efficient and congestion-free infrastructure. Over time there will be greater demands on our infrastructure - more congestion, truck traffic on residential streets, limited connectivity, limited reliability and continued vulnerability to incidents.

With the Project moving forward via the partnership between VDOT and ERC, the Hampton Roads community can now focus its attention on funding and constructing other key transportation improvements. By advancing a project that has so many positives – strong private team to finance and construct and a public commitment to success – Hampton Roads shows itself capable of working together to address its other regional transportation priorities.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

There are five key elements of the Project:

- A new two-lane tunnel under the Elizabeth River adjacent to the existing Midtown Tunnel;
- Maintenance and safety improvements to the existing Midtown Tunnel;
- Modifications to the interchange at Brambleton Avenue/ Hampton Boulevard in Norfolk;
- Maintenance and safety improvements to the existing Downtown Tunnel;
- And, extending the MLK from London Boulevard to Interstate 264 (I-264), with an interchange at High Street.



www.midtowntunnel.org
www.erc-info.com

Visit us online to learn more about the Project and how VDOT and Elizabeth River Crossings continue to engage residents, communities and businesses in the region.



**THE DOWNTOWN TUNNEL/MIDTOWN
TUNNEL/MLK EXTENSION PROJECT**

PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE - DELIVERING VALUE TO THE REGION

The Project delivers value in a variety of ways to the people of Hampton Roads. Despite being located entirely in Portsmouth and Norfolk, the Project is a vital improvement to the regional transportation system in Hampton Roads. Upon completion, travel reliability and trip time across the Elizabeth River will be improved. Congestion will be relieved by doubling capacity at the Midtown Tunnel and commuters will have additional travel options with a direct link between I-264 and the MLK Expressway. All commuters in the region will benefit from the Project as the transportation system will operate more efficiently.

Perhaps more importantly, you won't have to schedule your life around tunnel traffic. With the completion of the Project, capacity will increase and traffic should flow more smoothly across the Elizabeth River. The resultant predictability will better connect the two communities of Portsmouth and Norfolk, encouraging more trips across the Elizabeth River for shopping, dining and entertainment options.

PROJECT BENEFITS - DELIVERING SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO THE REGION

- **Increased Reliability:** The Project will improve reliability of commute and travel times for the users of the facilities and the people of Hampton Roads.
- **Reduced travel time** and increased capacity means less time spent traveling.
- **Improved quality of life:** Less time spent commuting means more time to do the things that matter most - spending time with family and friends, avoiding day care late fees, enjoying increased dining and entertainment options in Portsmouth and Norfolk.
- **Improved Safety:** Construction of the MLK Extension will decrease the number of large tractor-trailers from using the local roads in Portsmouth. With faster and more reliable trips, in addition to a seamless connection between MLK and I-264, trucks will have an incentive to use the new MLK rather than using local roads to navigate their way to area interstate highways. Additionally, once the new Midtown Tunnel is constructed, each tunnel will allow uni-directional traffic. This improvement will allow enhanced emergency access to tunnel accidents and reduce emergency response times. Finally, the new facilities will also aid in the event of a regional emergency, such as from a hurricane, by doubling the capacity of the Midtown Tunnel and providing alternate routes for the population to efficiently evacuate the affected area.

COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING THE LOWEST POSSIBLE TOLL

- ERC and VDOT are committed to achieving the lowest toll rate possible.
- ERC and VDOT are evaluating to identify the most effective ways to lower the base toll.
- The Comprehensive Agreement between VDOT and ERC will specifically outline the tolling schedule including toll escalations and the intervals at which the increases can be made over the life of the agreement. ERC will be bound by this agreement once executed by both parties.

HOW TOLLING WILL WORK

- No toll booths
- You do not stop or slow down to pay tolls
- Tolls are collected electronically using state-of-the-art technology
- Sign up for E-Z Pass at www.ezpassva.com

