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I-64 widening east of Richmond to start in November

DAVE RESS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Work is set to begin in November on widening Interstate 64 east of Richmond, with the aim of completing a six-lane superhighway connection to Hampton Roads, said Virginia Department of Transportation Commissioner Stephen Brich.

The aim is to add a third lane in each direction on I-64 in New Kent County and the northern reaches of James City County.

The wider highway would connect with the recently widened section of I-64 between Newport News and Williamsburg.

The widening in New Kent and James City, along with the lanes already added between Newport News and Williamsburg and the two new tunnels underway next to the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, will tackle the chronic traffic jams that frustrate shippers moving cargo between Interstate 95 and port

facilities in Hampton Roads.

The first work, east of Richmond, will carve away at the median between mile 205, by the Bottoms Bridge exit, to mile 215, just east of the exit for Route 155 and Providence Forge, Brich told a conference hosted by the RVA757 Connects business group, which seeks to promote economic progress in Richmond and Hampton Roads.

Work on this segment is slated to finish in July 2027 and will cost \$210 million. The cost is coming in below VDOT's estimate of \$277.8 million.

A team of Shirley Contracting and the Dewberry design firm won the contract.

Work on a second segment, between mile 215 and mile 224, which is 4 miles east of the exit for Route 33 and West Point, is set for completion in April 2028. VDOT has estimated it would cost \$244 million.

VDOT will seek bids next spring for the third segment, be-

tween miles 224 and 233 – where the already-widened portion of I-64 begins. This portion is supposed to be finished in November 2027. VDOT estimates this cost at \$231.8 million.

The budget compromise the General Assembly enacted this year includes \$150 million more for widening I-64 in New Kent and James City counties, while the Central Virginia Transportation Authority, the Richmond regional body that deploys funds from the region's sales and fuel tax surcharges, has committed \$100 million to get started on what is likely to be a \$750 million project when it is completed.

The highway between Newport News and Williamsburg was widened in the same way as is planned for the work east of Richmond – by cutting into the median between eastbound and westbound lanes. That often meant using the shoulder as a travel lane.

Business groups in metro



DANIEL SANGJIB MIN, TIMES-DISPATCH

This view shows Interstate 64 near the Bottoms Bridge exit in New Kent County. The first I-64 widening work will carve away at the median between mile 205, by the Bottoms Bridge exit, to mile 215, just east of the exit for Route 155 and Providence Forge.

Richmond and Hampton Roads regions' economic future. have argued that adding lanes in the final 29 miles of I-64 between Richmond and Williamsburg is critical for the two

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