

**REPORT OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Final Report on the Status  
of the Proposed Improvements to  
U.S. Route 460 between Hampton  
Roads and Richmond-Petersburg  
Metropolitan Area**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



**HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 30**

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
RICHMOND  
2006**

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**GREGORY A. WHIRLEY**  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

January 10, 2006

The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
Members of the General Assembly

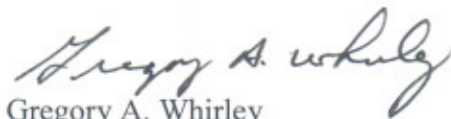
Dear Governor Warner and Members of the General Assembly:

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) was directed through HB 2543, of the 2003 General Assembly, to solicit proposals for improvements to U.S. Route 460 between Hampton Roads and the Richmond-Petersburg metropolitan area under the Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA) of 1995. It also requires VDOT to submit "an executive summary and report of its progress in completing the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) and in soliciting proposals as required above." An interim report was submitted in January 2005.

The study began in March 2003 and is scheduled for completion in May 2006. The attached report provides information on the project schedule, tasks completed by the Study Team, ongoing and future tasks, request for proposals and candidate build alternatives.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Gregory A. Whirley

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Pierce R. Homer



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

During its 2003 session, the Virginia General Assembly passed House Bill 2543, enacted as Chapter 953 of the 2003 Acts of Assembly. The Act requires the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to solicit proposals for improvements to U.S. Route 460 between Hampton Roads and the Richmond-Petersburg metropolitan area under the Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA) of 1995. It also requires that VDOT submit “an executive summary and report of its progress in completing the DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) and in soliciting the proposals as required above.” This report provides an overview and project status of the ongoing Route 460 Location Study.

The study began in March 2003 and is scheduled for completion in May 2006. The Study Team completed several important tasks, including:

- Project scoping;
- Traffic studies;
- Identification of problems and potential solutions;
- Resource identification and impact assessment;
- Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), consistent with federal requirements; and
- Location public hearing.

On November 17, 2005, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) selected Candidate Build Alternative 1. The Final EIS is currently being prepared.



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is conducting a three-year location study to address transportation problems along Route 460 between Interstate 295 in Prince George County and the Suffolk Bypass (US 58) in Suffolk. This report describes progress made in completing the study and in soliciting proposals under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (PPTA) for the project, as required by Chapter 953 of the 2003 Acts of Assembly.



## **STUDY PARTICIPANTS**

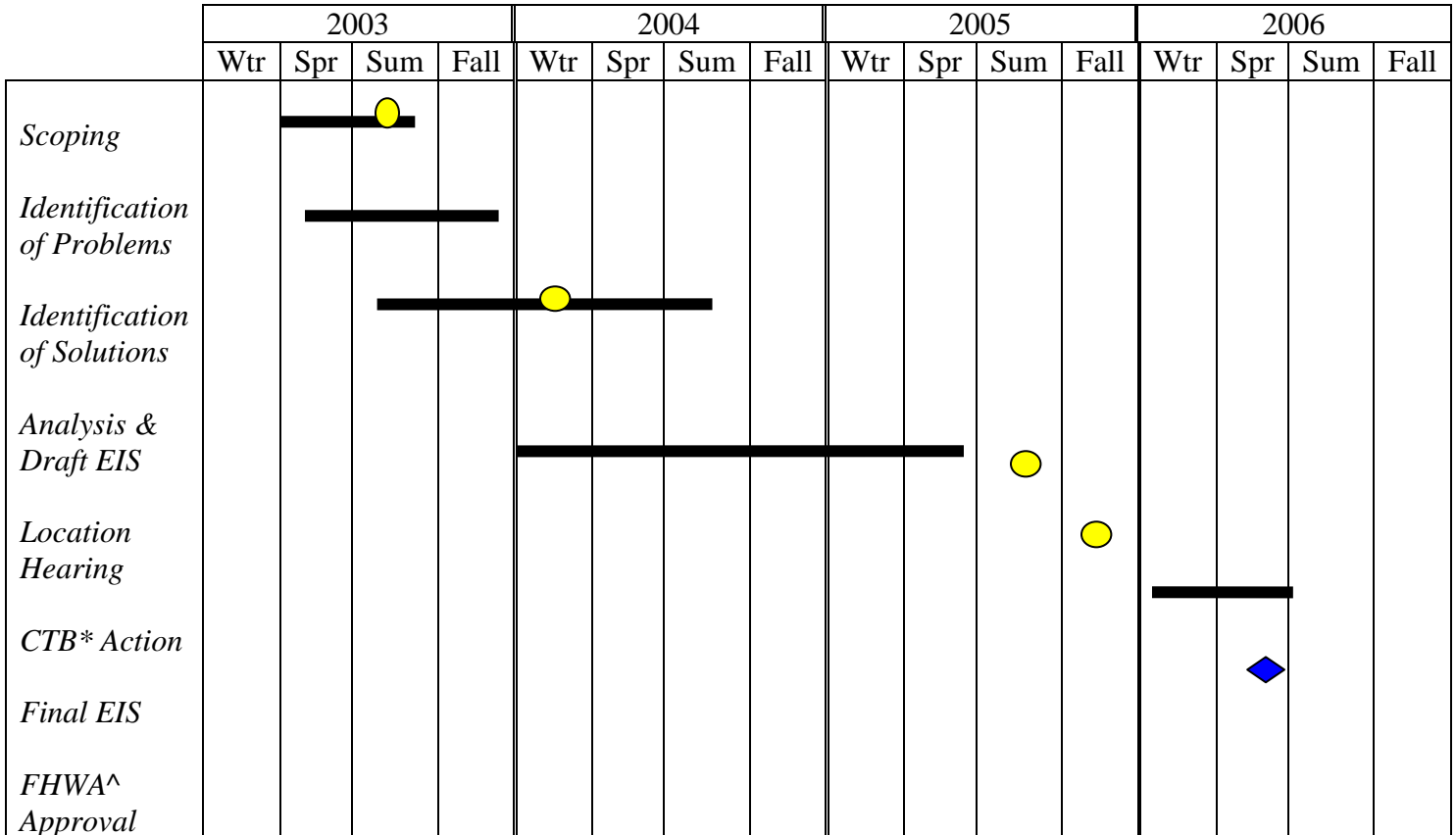
Key players in the study include:

- **Virginia Department Of Transportation:**  
VDOT is conducting the location study. A consultant has been hired to assist with technical studies.
- **Federal Highway Administration:**  
An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to support permit applications and to qualify the project for federal funding. FHWA is sponsoring this study and serves as the lead federal agency. This agency has approval authority for the EIS and must approve any alternative to address problems along the corridor.
- **Route 460 Communication Committee:**  
The Communications Committee was established by HJR 684 during the 2001 General Assembly. The Committee acts as link among the citizens and businesses of the Richmond-Petersburg metropolitan area, the Port of Hampton Roads, General Assembly members, and VDOT.
- **Crater & Hampton Roads Planning District Commissions**

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Exhibit 1 provides the project schedule. Completion of the study is scheduled for May 2006.

Exhibit 1: Project Schedule



● Public Meetings    ◆ Record of Decision

\*Commonwealth Transportation Board    ^Federal Highway Administration

## **TASKS COMPLETED**

The Study Team has completed these tasks:

- Project Scoping
- Traffic Studies and Identification of Problems:
  - Transportation needs identified include: roadway deficiencies; safety; increasing freight shipments; travel delay; hurricane evacuation capability; and strategic military connectivity.
- Identification of Solutions:
  - Solutions to the problems listed above were developed and then evaluated through consideration of public comments, input from stakeholders, and technical review.
  - This process led to the elimination of some alternatives and retention of others for a more detailed study in the Draft EIS.
  - Alternatives studied included three Candidate Build Alternatives (see Exhibit 2). Alternatives 1 and 3 are on new location while Alternative 2 involves major upgrades to the existing Route 460 with bypasses around communities.
  - The Draft EIS also includes a Low-Build Alternative, which provides a lower-cost option to improve safety and traffic flow, and a No-Build Alternative.
- Resource Identification and Impact Assessment:
  - The Study Team evaluated impacts of the solutions to the human and natural environment. Effects to such resources as wetlands, streams, historic properties, and communities were identified and documented.
- Preparation of a Draft EIS:
  - Consistent with federal requirements; the Study Team prepared a Draft EIS that summarized the tasks described above.
  - The Draft EIS, which serves as a decision making document, was signed by FHWA on May 26, 2005.
  - A copy of the Draft EIS is available at [www.virginiadot.org/projects/460-deis.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/460-deis.asp).
- Location Public Hearing:
  - A location public hearing was held at two separate locations. The first was held at Windsor High School on July 19, 2005; the second at J.E.J. Moore Middle School on July 21, 2005.
  - A total of 748 citizens attended the public hearing, and 500 comments were received during the comment period.
- CTB Action:
  - The results of the study and public hearing were presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) at its workshop on October 19, 2005.
  - At its regular meeting on November 17, 2005, the CTB adopted Candidate Build Alternative-1 (CBA-1) as its preferred alternative.

- In addition to adopting CBA-1, the CTB resolution directed VDOT to solicit private sector proposals under the PPTA to build the project and further study a shift in Isle of Wight County.

## **ONGOING AND FUTURE TASKS**

- PPTA Solicitation:
  - VDOT plans to solicit private-sector proposals under the PPTA to build the new road. It may be financed through tolls because funding is insufficient to build a new road.
  
- Final EIS:
  - The Study Team is preparing the Final EIS, which will document the action of the CTB and respond to comments received from interested parties on the Draft EIS.
  - The Final EIS will be presented to the FHWA for their final decision.
  
- Record of Decision:
  - The Record of Decision is a public document that reflects FHWA's decision. It includes the rationale behind that decision and commitments to monitoring and mitigation.

## **PPTA REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

VDOT will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) within 90 days after the CTB's location decision. In accordance with Chapter 953 of the 2003 Acts of Assembly, the Innovative Project Delivery (IPD) Division is in the process of developing the RFP and may be in a position to issue it prior to the legislatively mandated deadline.

# CANDIDATE BUILD ALTERNATIVES

