



# FACT SHEET

VirginiaDOT.org

Interstate 64 East

## Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT) Paving Project

*Hampton/ Norfolk*

**Contractor:** Basic Construction (part of the I-64 paving project in Hampton)

**Contract Amount:** \$2.5 million

**Completion Date:** Fall 2012

**Funding Source:** 90% of the funding for this project comes from FHWA (Surface Transportation Program) STP Funds. The rest of the funds come from general maintenance funds.

**About the project:** Crews will repave all lanes on I-64 West from the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT) to the Hampton Coliseum. This phase will include the repaving of the eastbound tube of the HRBT. The contract cost includes the paving on I-64 in Hampton and the HRBT eastbound lane paving.

**Current Status:** Crews finished repaving one lane of the eastbound tunnel in September 2012 and will repave the remaining lane during the weekend of Oct. 19. Work will be performed during nights only.

### What kind of construction is being performed in the tunnel?

VDOT repaves the HRBT once every ten to twelve years to prevent pavement deterioration and keep the driving conditions as smooth as possible. Crews will pave eastbound lanes of the HRBT. It takes two to three weekends to complete the work:

Weekend of Sept. 14 – Crews completed repaving one eastbound lane.

Weekend of Oct. 19 – Crews are expected to complete repaving the remaining eastbound lane.

**NIGHT WORK ONLY – Both tubes of HRBT will be open during the day and early evening over the weekend. The two other major water crossings, Route 17 James River Bridge and the I-664 Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel (MMMBT), will be OPEN.**

Third weekend – an additional weekend may be required in case there is a rain or equipment breakdown delay.

During the first weekend crews paved one stretch of lane; under the second closure they will mill and repave the other lane. The third weekend is required in case there is a rain or equipment breakdown delay.

### **How did VDOT plan for the HRBT closure?**

The first weekend closure of the I-64 HRBT east, crews milled and repaved the right lane of the tube. Significant congestion resulted at the alternate route, the I-664 MMMBT, for the majority of the day on Saturday, Sept. 15. Because of this, VDOT has reevaluated its closure plan for the facility and has come up with a new course of action:

- Tunnel closures to occur during weekend nights only when traffic volumes are lower. Both tubes will be open during the daytime and early evening hours. A traffic impact analysis has been conducted.
- The other major water crossings – JRB and the MMMBT – will be open.
- VDOT coordinated with other localities to make sure other major road work will not be taking place during the weekend night-time closures of the I-64 HRBT eastbound tunnel.
- Area weekend activities were closely evaluated so work is not taking place during major events that would result in heavier than usual weekend night-time traffic.
- VDOT will maximize information sources, including electronic signs and 511.

### **What is the schedule of closures?**

The I-64 HRBT eastbound tunnel is scheduled to be closed for repaving work during the following times:

- Friday, Oct. 19, beginning at 9 p.m. until Saturday, Oct. 20, at 9 a.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 20, beginning at 9 p.m. until Sunday, Oct. 21, at 9 a.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 21, beginning at 9 p.m. until Monday, Oct. 22, at 4 a.m.

### **Will there be a detour?**

Yes, the detour will be the I-664 MMMBT. It will be a signed detour.

#### **The signed detours for I-64 HRBT east will be as follows:**

- From I-64 east approaching I-664 south (Hampton Coliseum), motorists must stay on I-664 south through the Monitor Merrimac Memorial Bridge Tunnel (MMMMBT). Follow I-664 south to I-264 east towards the Downtown Tunnel. Follow I-264 east through the tunnel to the end of the detour at I-64 east and I-264 east (Barry Robinson Interchange).
- For motorist staying on I-64 east towards the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, they must exit at Mallory Street then head west on I-64 towards Williamsburg. Follow I-664 south towards the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel (MMMMBT) to I-264 east towards the Downtown Tunnel. Follow I-264 east through the tunnel to the end of the detour at I-64 east and I-264 east (Barry Robinson Interchange).

Outside of the Region: Motorists will be made aware of the closure beginning in Richmond at the 295 corridor. Signage will include 27 overhead and portable message signs between Richmond and Hampton Roads.

### **How far will motorists be detoured?**

Motorists will travel four miles off Interstate 64 on to I-664 MMMBT. The detour begins at Exit 264. Motorists will be alerted to the upcoming closure between Exits 264-268.

### **What should motorists expect as far as traffic impacts?**

Analysis shows that during the time of closures, the MMMBT can handle the combined volumes of the HRBT and MMMBT. There should not be more than a ½ mile back-up at any time.

### **Will the night-time work cause a back-up?**

Motorists should expect a ½ mile back-up during the closure. Additional incidents such as cars breaking down or accidents on the interstate could increase the delay.

### **What did VDOT base its traffic impact analysis on?**

VDOT completed its traffic analysis with a tool developed by the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research (VCTIR).

### **Why do you need a full closure?**

Paving inside a tunnel poses unique challenges as it requires specialized equipment and resources. It is not possible to keep a lane open while the work is being performed next to an active work zone. The equipment takes up two lanes and because there are no shoulders in the tunnel, the entire tube must close to keep workers and motorists safe.

### **Why can't you have traffic going both ways through the westbound tunnel?**

A traffic analysis was performed of the area to determine if bi-directional traffic in the open, westbound tunnel would be feasible. It was determined that bi-directional traffic could:

- Compound traffic congestion issues for both directions of the tunnel, resulting in a traffic queue of approximately two miles at the HRBT, in comparison with ½ mile cue at the MMMBT for the same timeframe.
- Violate VDOT's safety standards for length and limits of an acceptable work zone activity area. The two-way work zone would span for over three and a half miles due to the spacing and crossover locations. VDOT's safety standards are set at two miles.
- Cause additional traffic concerns for tractor trailers, as the east and west bound tunnels are different heights. The HRBT west is restricted to 13 feet 6 inches, as compared to the HRBT east restriction of 14 feet 6 inches. This change tunnel height poses a significant challenge to truckers who may be unfamiliar to the difference in heights and need to be turned around at the island, resulting in more delays for motorists.

For these reasons, and others, it was determined that bi-directional traffic in the open westbound tunnel would not be perused, and a detour route through the I-664 MMMBT would be establish during the I-64 east HRBT closure.

### **Will there be road work under way by other localities that could block lanes, which could further impact traffic? What had VDOT done to coordinate with localities?**

VDOT has coordinated work and communicated with localities about the upcoming HRBT closure. VDOT has confirmed with localities that local road work will not occur impacting the HRBT detour route during these times. VDOT has also organized a plan of action with the Virginia State Police.

### **Are there major events going on during the planned weekends that could cause more traffic impacts?**

VDOT has worked closely with localities and has done a thorough review of local calendars, and those calendars do not reflect any major traffic-heavy events in the region.

### **Has VDOT taken any additional steps to clear I-664 MMBT incidents faster during the I-64 HRBT east closure?**

VDOT will deploy additional safety service patrols on the I-664 patrol route and increased staff at the MMBT to ensure timely incident response and clearance.

### **What is VDOT doing to prepare local emergency responders for the closure?**

VDOT has been coordinating closely with local fire, rescue and police in the surrounding locations about the weekend nighttime closure plans for the eastbound tunnel.

### **What happens if there is a catastrophic incident during the HRBT east closure?**

VDOT has worked with the contractor to develop a contingency plan to pull work in the HRBT east tunnel, if necessary. It would take approximately two hours to open the tunnel back up to traffic temporarily.

### **What is VDOT doing to prepare local motorists and tourists for the closure?**

VDOT is doing an extensive outreach to notify motorists of the upcoming closures. This notification includes; radio, online, television, outdoor, and print ads. Staff has also sent out traffic advisories, in addition to posting notifications on social media platforms.

### **What is VDOT doing to inform the public about these closures?**

VDOT's outreach campaign, which was initiated in late August, encompasses billboards, television and radio spots, social media outreach, print ads, in addition to online ad placement. VDOT has also notified local media and posted news releases to the state website. In addition, staff posted on the VDOT Facebook page alerting citizens to the scheduled maintenance.

### **How will VDOT use the electronic signs?**

VDOT's plan is to activate overhead message signs on Monday, Oct. 15, after morning rush hour, on a local level. These signs will include messages about the upcoming HRBT east overnight closures for the following weekend. They will be live with this message unless there is an incident in that particular roadway span.

VDOT will also coordinate closely between the Hampton Roads Transportation Operation Center (TOC) and the Richmond TOC to ensure motorists know about the closure at and near the 295 interchange in Richmond.

### **Will Reach the Beach signs work correctly?**

Yes, all Reach the Beach signs will function correctly during the closure. VDOT has worked closely with its service provider to ensure the information is correct and that the HRBT isn't listed as an alternate route during the closure.

### **How is VDOT using its 511 technology to inform the public?**

Included in VDOT's outreach campaign is the use of the 511 phone, internet, electronic message board and smart application systems. Information about the HRBT east closure has been incorporated into messages on all of these mediums to provide planning information to motorists ahead of the closure and up to the minute information to motorists during the closure to keep them informed on backups and congestion in the area.

HAR radio will have a floodgate 'live' one hour prior to the closure.

511 will have the closure listed under planned events one week prior to the event. Once the event goes live, the system will alert motorists to the available routes.

### **Where can I find more information about these closures?**

Motorists should remember this when traveling through the region:

- Listen to HAR 1680 AM
- Call the Traffic Line at 757-361-3016. The Traffic Line provides a direct feed from the HAR 1680AM broadcast.
- Dial 511. 511 features a voice prompt system that enables you to receive current travel and traffic condition reports by roadway. Although the 511 signs are posted on the highway, we discourage motorists from using cell phones while driving.
- Visit [www.VA511.com](http://www.VA511.com). Before heading out, visit the VA511 website. You can even set up email and text alerts by roadway to help manage your commute.
- Download the VDOT511 smartphone app. The app is available on the iPhone, iPad and Android. You can view maps and traffic cameras and get travel times to several interstate segments throughout the state. The app also features a text-to-speech mode for ease of use while driving.
- Motorists can also email [hamptonroadspublicinfo@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:hamptonroadspublicinfo@vdot.virginia.gov) and subscribe to our weekly lane closure forecast.
- Subscribe to our Facebook page updates: <http://www.facebook.com/VirginiaDOT>.
- Subscribe to VDOT Hampton Roads Twitter feed @511hamptonroads.
- Visit the project page for more details [www.HRBTpaving.org](http://www.HRBTpaving.org)