



elizabeth
river
crossings



Improving Connectivity in Hampton Roads

Elizabeth River Crossings is developing the Downtown Tunnel/Midtown Tunnel/MLK Extension Project with the Virginia Department of Transportation—for improvements to existing tunnels and for an efficient, connected transportation network.

Located in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia, the Project includes:

- A new two-lane tunnel under the Elizabeth River adjacent to the existing Midtown Tunnel.
- Significant rehabilitation, safety improvements and maintenance to the existing Midtown and Downtown Tunnels, which are 50-, 60- and 25-years-old.
- Interchange improvements at Brambleton Avenue/Hampton Boulevard in Norfolk to enhance traffic flow.
- Extending the MLK Freeway from London Boulevard to Interstate 264, with a partial interchange at High Street—providing more direct access between the tunnels and a shorter, direct route to the Downtown Tunnel, thus enhancing regional mobility and offering commuters choices to avoid congestion.
- Long-term, 24/7 maintenance, operations, management, snow removal and incident response in the Project area.
- An agreement with Hampton Roads Transit to increase bus and ferry services between Norfolk and Portsmouth to the highest level of service—providing improved interconnectivity and low-cost, convenient alternatives to driving.

The Project is being delivered as a public-private partnership, a legislated process that enables private companies to partner with public entities, to contribute funding in performance-based, publically available contracts. The Commonwealth owns the Project and VDOT oversees Elizabeth River Crossings' performance on the fixed-price, date-certain contract.

#1 Transportation Priority

More than 120,000 drivers use the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels daily. In fact, the Midtown Tunnel is the most heavily traveled road east of the Mississippi. Since it opened, population has increased nearly 70% and tunnel usage by 600%.

Idling in congestion at the tunnels wastes more than 17 million gallons of fuel each year, and the time equates to three lost workdays per driver, per year. Congestion costs Hampton Roads a significant portion of its Gross Regional Product, with .8% lost annually. Benefits of the Project include:

- **Tunnel Upgrades and Rehabilitation:** Fire, life and safety improvements will be made to the existing Midtown and Downtown Tunnels.
- **Efficient Access to Both Tunnels:** Using the MLK Extension, drivers can easily choose between the Midtown or Downtown Tunnels—and they'll be better informed of traffic conditions via changeable message signs coordinated through a central control room.
- **Job Creation:** More than \$1 billion of construction works will be handled by local companies. More than 500 Project-direct jobs and more than 1,000 indirect jobs in the community, and with related industry and suppliers, will be created through local suppliers and vendors.



- **Local Business Subcontracting:** 40% subcontractor engagement goal of local, disadvantaged, minority and women-owned businesses, plus job training and apprentice programs.
- **Time Savings, Congestion Relief:** The average round trip driver at the Midtown Tunnel will save about 30 minutes a day, saving fuel costs and reducing emissions.
- **Improved Safety, Evacuation Readiness:** With the opening of the new Midtown Tunnel, there will be two lanes going east, two going west. Bi-directional traffic in the existing Midtown Tunnel will be eliminated—thus increasing the capacity for emergency response and evacuation readiness.
- **Regional Productivity:** The Project will generate an estimated \$170-\$254 million annual increase in gross regional productivity.
- **Accessibility:** Increased travel options will provide greater accessibility to jobs, educational facilities, medical services, shopping and recreational activities.
- **Improved Connectivity:** The Project improves critical links to the various port facilities in the region, supporting the movement of goods and enhancing regional competitiveness.

ERC is partnering with VDOT to involve SWaM and DBE subcontractors to the greatest degree possible.

Why Tolls?

Tolls, plus private financing, a contribution from the Commonwealth and a low-interest Federal Highway Administration loan, help to fund the Project. In addition, Elizabeth River Crossings is securing debt—that is of no recourse to the Commonwealth—to help fund the project.

The toll rate is established at the lowest possible rate, and with consideration to public input, has been reduced by 40% since originally proposed. The escalation limit accommodates increases in the cost of goods and services in line with the consumer price index or 3.5%, which is approximately a nickel annually.

Maintain Speed

Toll roads operate more efficiently and safely *without toll booths*. “Gantries” over the roadway collect the toll electronically—with no cash option, no stopping or slowing. Drivers are encouraged to maintain normal travel speeds.

Gantries will be located on the west side of the Midtown and Downtown Tunnels, and on access points to the MLK Extension.



Pay the Lowest Toll Rate with **E-ZPass**

Drivers can pay the lowest toll rates using E-ZPass. Alternately, drivers may Pay by Plate which includes a \$3.18 processing fee as an invoice is mailed to the driver. Pay by Plate payments can be made by mail, in person, by telephone or online. Pay by Plate is invoicing by mail, not a violation or citation.

Get an E-ZPass

1. Visit www.EZPassVA.com, call 877-762-7824 or visit a customer service center; location details are provided online or by calling the toll-free number. Individual and commercial E-ZPass accounts are available.
2. Install the E-ZPass transponder in your vehicle or on your license plate using the instructions provided.
3. Drive as you normally would—without stopping or slowing to pay a toll.



Vehicle Type	Maximum Base Toll Rates	
	Peak Period ¹	Off-Peak Period ²
Auto/Light Vehicles Vehicles with up to two axles and six tires, including passenger cars; motorcycles; motorcycles equipped with a sidecar, towing a trailer or equipped with a sidecar and towing a trailer; and 2-axle trucks (4 and 6 tires).	\$1.84	\$1.59
Heavy Vehicles Vehicles with three or more axles	\$7.36	\$4.77

¹Peak Period is Monday to Friday, 5:30 am to 9:00 am and 2:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

²Off-Peak Period is all other times not specifically defined as Peak Period.

Upon completion of the MLK Extension, E-ZPass toll rates will be \$0.50 when used in conjunction with a tunnel or \$1.00 independently.

New Capacity, Improved Safety

The new Midtown Tunnel will be built adjacent to the existing Midtown Tunnel—bi-directional traffic in the existing Midtown Tunnel will be converted to one-way.



Reflecting the input provided by local police, fire, ambulance and first responders, the design will enable enhanced emergency response and evacuation readiness. State-of-the-art safety features in the new tunnel include a separate escape corridor, jet fans, deluge system, fire sensors, fire alarms/extinguishers/hose connections, motorist aid phones, fireproofing and video monitoring for traveler safety.

Learn More and Receive Project Updates



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Employment & Subcontracting

The Project will create hundreds of jobs, plus promote regional economic development. The active involvement of local, disadvantaged, minority and women-owned businesses will strongly contribute to the Project's success.

In cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Employment Commission and the Business Opportunity and Workforce Development Program, ERC will continue to share information about potential work areas, and subcontracting and employment opportunities.

Interested subcontractors should submit the following information to southeast.procurement@skanska.com:

- 1. Contact information for your company (individual name, company name, address, phone, fax and email)*
- 2. DBE/SWaM Virginia certification number (upload a copy of your certificate, if available)*
- 3. VDOT pre-qualification number*
- 4. List of work scopes and their relevant NCAIS codes*

More information about becoming a DBE or SWaM vendor can be found at: www.dmbv.virginia.gov. More information about VDOT's Business Opportunity and Workforce Development Program can be found online at www.virginiadot.org/business/BOWD.asp, by calling 804-662-9555 or emailing BOWDCenter@vdot.virginia.gov.