



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **UPDATED ROUTE 288 SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED** *Project Scheduled For Completion Late Summer 2004*

RICHMOND— Construction season is now underway, and the Route 288 PPTA project team has a plan of action for completing the delayed project.

The delayed project completion stems primarily from the wet weather the area received between late 2002 and late 2003, which included some of the highest rainfall amounts on record. The rain and mud made the majority of construction activities virtually impossible to perform. Some of the work underway at the time needed to be repaired or redone once the rains stopped. All of this amounted to additional work, additional testing, and additional frustrations for motorists anxiously awaiting the opening of Route 288 between I-64 and Route 76 (the Powhite Parkway).

Rick Fischer, Project Manager for APAC, said that many of those motorists have been e-mailing and calling, asking for updates. “Over the winter we spent a lot of time assessing all the site conditions and impacts the rains had on the project. We developed a revised work plan and schedule that is now complete. The plan allows for phased completion of project segments to allow motorists to begin using portions of the highway sooner.”

The first section of the project between I-64 and Tuckahoe Creek in Goochland County was opened to traffic in December of 2003.

The updated schedule milestones are:

**Late Spring 2004 (near Memorial Day)** Open to traffic between Tuckahoe Creek and West Creek Parkway (Section D on project map)

**Mid-Summer 2004 (near Independence Day)** Open to traffic from West Creek Parkway to Patterson Avenue (Route 6) (Section C on project map)

(MORE)

**Late Summer/Early Fall 2004 (near Labor Day)** Ready to open to traffic from Patterson Avenue (Route 6) to the Powhatan-Chesterfield County line and to connect with the VDOT-managed portion in Chesterfield County. This segment includes the James River Bridge. (Sections C and A on map)

“This schedule could change depending on weather and site conditions we encounter this spring and summer,” said Fischer. He added that APAC’s ability to forecast completion dates with greater accuracy would improve as they get closer to their target dates.

He added, “VDOT advises us that their portion of the Route 288 project between the Powhatan/Chesterfield County line and Route 76 is scheduled for completion in late summer 2004. This would allow the opening of the segment between Route 6 and Route 60 in late summer. With luck and good weather it is possible that the segment between Route 60 and Route 76 can be opened to traffic by late summer or early fall.”

Currently the contractor plans to work six days per week from daylight to dark as much as possible. Fischer said that additional crews have been brought in from other states to help complete the remaining work. Initially, some of their time is spent in planning and coordination meetings as well as attending training sessions to ensure they perform their work safely and using the construction practices and high-quality standards established for this project. He emphasized that while the schedule is a high priority for the team, the safety of the crews and the quality of the work are the most important factors.

“We have two focal points right now. They are to complete the remaining earthwork as quickly as possible and to prepare places where the stone base and asphalt paving crews can work whenever and wherever it is possible,” said Fischer.

The entire project, including the VDOT-managed portion in Chesterfield County, is slated for completion in late summer/early fall 2004 if weather conditions remain normal this spring and summer.

For more information about the project, visit [www.Route288.com](http://www.Route288.com) or [www.VirginiaDOT.org](http://www.VirginiaDOT.org).

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