Downtown Tunnel/Midtown Tunnel/MLK Extension PPTA Project

Independent Review Panel (IRP) Recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board

July 16, 2009

E. Dana Dickens, IRP Chairman

Project Overview – Project Description

- **Midtown Tunnel – New Construction, Approaches and Improvements**
- **Downtown Tunnel Improvements**
- **Southern Extension of Martin Luther King Freeway (Route 58)**

Project Overview - Project Location



Project Overview - Project Objectives

- Increase capacity and reduce congestion
- Facility that may be integrated into operations of regional transportation network
- Serves as an emergency evacuation route
- Reduces and mitigates impacts to environment
- Coordinated with adjacent land uses

Project Overview – PPTA Procurement Process

- **Solicitation for Conceptual Proposals**
- **Quality Control Phase**
- **Thirteen Member Panel Selected by the Secretary of Transportation**
- **Panel held Five Meetings**
  - **All meetings open to the public**
  - **Held in the cities of Portsmouth and Norfolk**
  - **Two dedicated to public comments**
- **Considered Input from Impacted Jurisdictions, VDOT Staff, ERC Presentations, and the Public**

IRP Purpose

- **Determine if ERC was qualified based on solicitation criteria to advance to the next phase of the procurement**

- **Develop any other recommendations, for consideration, that were either necessary or desirable to successfully implement the project**
  - Project development
  - Financial
  - Policy

IRP – Qualifications Review and Recommendation

Priority 1 ✓	Priority 2 ✓	Priority 3 ✓	Priority 4 ✓
•Financial Capacity •Key Personnel •Relevant Tunnel Construction Experience	•Strong Work History •Relevant Team Member Experience	•Prior Working Relationships •Viable Financial Plan •Approach to Performance Security & Insurance Coverage	•Viable Project Approach •Appropriate Risk Assignments •Organizational Structure

Recommendation: Advancement of ERC's Conceptual Proposal and proceed directly to an – **Interim Agreement**

IRP – Recommendations for Successful Project

What other items should be considered for a successful project ?

- **Project Development**
- **Financial**
- **Policy**
- **Other**

Recommendations – Project Development

- **Accelerate the project procurement process and development of additional project data**
  - **Interim agreement**
  - **determine financial feasibility**
  - **coordinate with private sector**

- **Continue to work with FHWA to:**
  - **secure tolling approval for existing structures**
  - **investigate/consider toll collection during the construction phase of the project through the Value Pricing Pilot Program**

- **Consider the financial/technical feasibility of implementing operational and construction phasing of the project elements**

Recommendations – Project Development

- **Form collaborative working groups**
  - evaluate financial and technical scope issues

- **Focus on business outreach and development programs**
  - attain fair and reasonable small-women-minority owned business and disadvantaged business enterprise goals for the project

- **Employ a public involvement process in the continued development of the project**
  - ensure effective communication/participation from citizens of the cities

Recommendations – Project Development

- **Coordinate closely with Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) and the cities of Portsmouth and Norfolk in defining the proposed alignment of the parallel Midtown Tunnel and associated utility relocations so as not to preclude the efficient future development of a replacement tube for the existing tunnel and multi-modal opportunities, including light rail and bus rapid transit systems between Norfolk and Portsmouth**

- **Continue to work collaboratively to develop an analysis for adding light rail and bus rapid transit to the new parallel Midtown Tunnel**
  - **identify the technical, environmental and financial impacts**

Recommendations – Project Development

- **Continue efforts on a public outreach program to educate the public**
  - **on open road tolling, congestion pricing, and how user fees are applied**

- **Cooperatively and proactively work with the cities to:**
  - **lessen impacts to properties,**
  - **identify opportunities to advance context sensitive solutions**

Recommendations - Financial

- **Continue to pursue public/private sector funding to:**
  - **locate additional contributions for the project**
  - **stabilize and/or reduce toll rates and other cost savings ways to reduce cost**
  - **include in consideration of public funds**
    - Any existing maintenance backlog
    - Existing public sector maintenance funding
    - Any other current public funding sources

- **Continue to evaluate the proposed tolling regime and consider congestion pricing and tolling escalation**

Recommendations – Policy

- **Work in coordination with the private sector to consider**
  - **employment to qualified VDOT personnel**
  - **personnel displaced as a result of the advancement of the project**
  - **should include a comprehensive transition plan for all employees impacted**

- **Consider providing for priority access and tolling treatments for transit within the facility**
  - **focused on providing lower cost access**

Recommendations - Other

- **Work with the localities to identify ways to maximize travel efficiency/throughput**
  - **additional efficiencies within the proposed project**
  - **adjacent traffic network**

  Note: this may require the localities to revisit their Capital Improvement Programs to reprioritize or re-scope any existing projects in the Project vicinity or create new projects to help increase traffic and throughput efficiencies.

Questions

