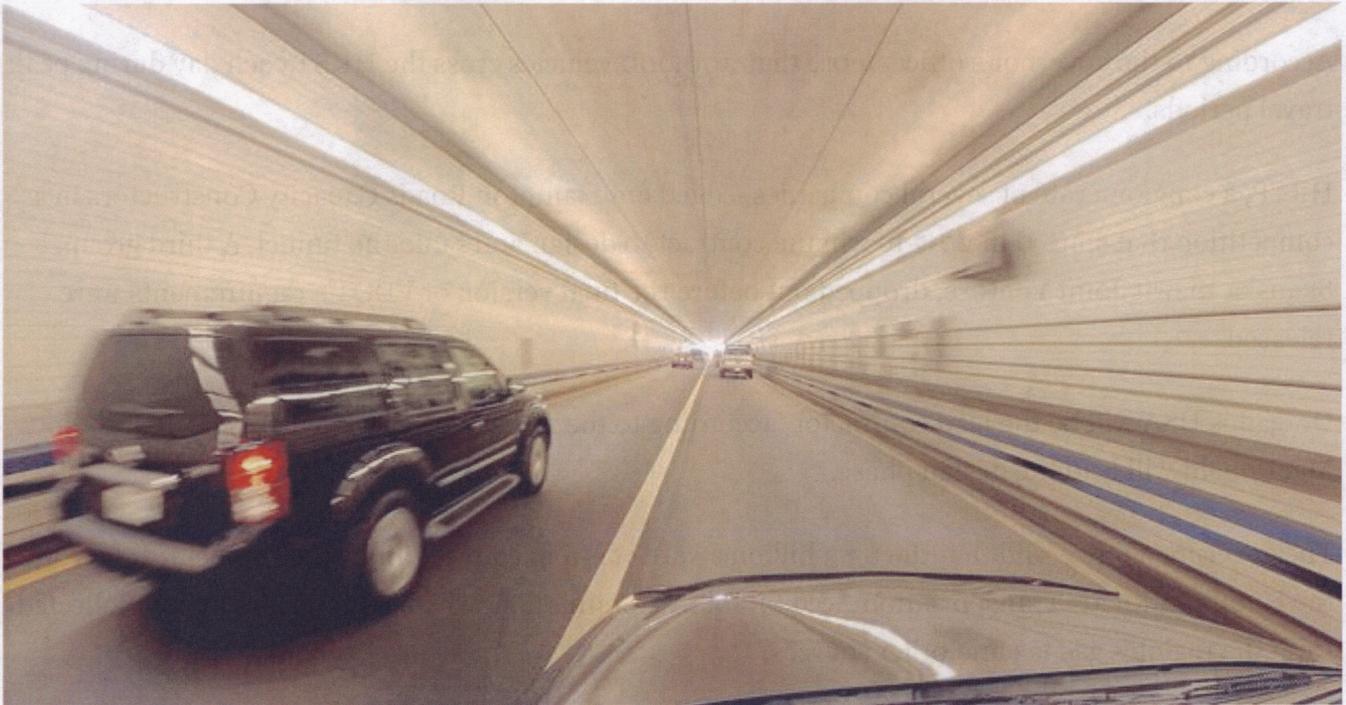


# Governor announces winner of \$3.3 billion contract to expand HRBT by 2025



An assesment is in the works that will take into account the impact on housing, the environment and historic areas.

By **Matt Jones**  
Staff writer

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**G**ov. Ralph **Northam** announced on Friday that the state would award the \$3.3 billion contract to design and build an expansion to the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel by 2025 to Hampton Roads Connector Partners.

In a news release, the governor's office called the project the largest construction project the **Virginia Department of Transportation** has ever undertaken.

"This project supports and expands critical transportation infrastructure, creating opportunity for families, military personnel, and businesses in the Hampton Roads region," Northam said in the release. "I am proud of the hard work and negotiations that have taken place over this past year to deliver significant improvements that will relieve daily congestion, increase safety, and drive economic growth throughout this important corridor."

The state's final request for proposals, released in September, asks firms to describe how they would approach adding two additional tunnels alongside the existing roadway.

Current plans call for the two tunnels, which massive machines will bore into the soil underneath Hampton Roads harbor, to carry eastbound traffic. The existing tunnels will carry westbound traffic, with two free lanes, a high-occupancy toll lane and a part-time HOT shoulder in each direction.

According to the governor's office, more than 100,000 vehicles cross the HRBT each day during peak travel periods.

HRCP, a conglomerate of several companies, edged out Hampton Roads Capacity Constructors in a competition that started in 2017 to win the contract to design and build the tunnel. A third group, Skanska Kiewit Joint Venture, dropped out before the final version of VDOT's requirements were released.

Dragados USA will be the lead contractor, according to the news release, while firms HDR and Mott MacDonald will lead the design phase.

The governor's office said that the \$3.3 billion award was a fixed price and would come mostly from the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission, which administers money collected from the region's gas tax and other sources.

The rest of the funds from state and federal sources is still being secured, according to the governor's office. VDOT will also pay for the replacement for existing bridge trestles on the southern side of the bridge-tunnel.

"This would not have happened without close coordination and strategic partnership between the Commonwealth of Virginia and HRTAC," said state secretary transportation Shannon Valentine in the news release.

The actual contract will be executed in April, according to the governor's office. It includes a fixed completion date for the project — Nov. 1, 2025.

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