

Congressman
J. Randy Forbes
Fourth District of Virginia



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forbes announces transportation funding for Chesapeake

Washington, D.C. – Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced that Chesapeake would receive **\$7 million** in federal funding for two important projects: 1.) Engineering design of the **Dominion Boulevard/Route 104**, and 2.) Replacement of the **Gilmerton Bridge**, as part of the 2004 Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill.

“This is wonderful news for Chesapeake, and for the entire Fourth District of Virginia,” Forbes said. “We are very excited to receive this funding during the tough times we are in as a nation, and also amidst tight budgetary constraints across the Commonwealth.”

Dominion Boulevard/Route 104, part of the National Highway System, connects Interstates 64 and 464 with U.S. Route 17 South in Chesapeake. **Three million dollars** appropriated through this legislation would be used to design a replacement of the “Steel Bridge”, a two-lane drawbridge over the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway with a high-rise, fixed-span bridge and widening the existing road section to four lanes. The new bridge would replace the existing moveable bridge.

The **Gilmerton Bridge** is an important bridge serving since 1938 as the crossing of the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River (Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway) for U.S. Route 13/Military Highway. **Four million dollars** would be appropriated for the construction of a new four-lane bridge with an increased vertical clearance between the bridge and the water, thereby reducing the number of openings for maritime traffic. Reduced openings result in greater capacity, less vehicular congestion and will enhance safety.

City of Chesapeake Mayor William E. Ward stated, “Congressman Forbes has worked so diligently, with the City and on behalf of the citizens of Chesapeake, in securing funding for critical transportation improvements such as Dominion Boulevard and the Gilmerton Bridge. Today’s news of funding approved in the Appropriations subcommittee’s mark-up, is yet another example of Randy’s effectiveness in advancing these key projects. With the Route 17 improvements underway, Dominion Boulevard remains the missing link between Interstate 64 and U.S. Route 17 South, and is the City’s top priority non-interstate project. With the existing funds secured previously, we should have 75% of the engineering funding in place.”