

# media release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Airport Connector construction project continues

Construction of the Airport Connector road linking [Pocahontas 895](#) to [Richmond International Airport](#) is in full swing.

The 1.6-mile Airport Connector will link Pocahontas 895 to Charles City Road and Airport Drive to lead directly into the heart of the airport. The new road will allow future airport travelers to bypass four sets of traffic lights and a rail crossing, and is expected to save up to 10 minutes on their trip.

Work accomplished to date includes:

- Clearing and grading of the entire route of the new road.
- General earthwork, especially in the area of the new interchange south of Pocahontas 895.
- Most of the drainage work.
- Relocation of utilities as needed, including water, sewer, power, gas and telephone lines.

Under way and continuing this fall:

- Construction of MSE walls – the engineering term for “mechanically stabilized earth” – at the Pocahontas 895 interchange area, within the industrial park at the end of Seven Hills Boulevard and near the airport where the new road will connect with Airport Drive.
- Pile driving and pouring of concrete for bridge supports, including some work to be done in the Pocahontas 895 median to support a new bridge carrying traffic from the existing Parkway to the new Connector road.

“Drivers will notice people working in the median,” said Rich Prezioso, Jr., PMP, Transurban’s project manager overseeing the Connector’s construction. While a lane closure won’t be necessary during this work, he said flaggers may be in place on occasion to provide for safe passage of construction equipment into and out of the median.

The new Airport Connector bridge over Pocahontas 895 is expected to go up sometime next year, he said.

MSE walls are being used to minimize the roadway’s footprint, Rich said. He explained that building MSE walls to support the road foundation allows the road to be built with less right-of-way and less impact on the surrounding environment.

For the safety of drivers and construction workers, a shoulder closure is in effect throughout the project along Pocahontas 895 between mileposts 2 and 4. The speed limit is 55 mph within this work area.

Work is proceeding according to schedule, with substantial completion expected in the spring of 2011.

The improvements have been made possible through a public-private partnership between [Transurban](#) and the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as the use of a federal credit program provided by the [Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act](#).

[American Infrastructure](#) is the design-build contractor.

The work is being done along Pocahontas 895 between the New Market Road/Laburnum Avenue exit and the ramps to Interstate 295, through to the industrial park at the end of Seven Hills Boulevard, and continuing on to the back entrance to the airport at Charles City Road.

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