

US 58 West Midtown Tunnel Facts

Delivering an Efficient, Connected Transportation Network | Operated by 



Elizabeth River Tunnels

For more information about the Project, including the Comprehensive Agreement and other Project documents and to sign up for Project updates, please visit www.DriveERT.com

To report an incident or maintenance issue at the Elizabeth River Tunnels, call our 24-hour hotline: **1-855-ERT-ROAD (1-855-378-7623)**

For inquiries about tolls or billing issues related to the Elizabeth River Tunnels Project, contact the ERT Customer Service Center directly at **1-855-ERT-ROAD or customerservice@DriveERT.biz**

Providing a Region-Wide Transportation Solution

Tunnel Fabrication

The new tunnel will be made up of 11 reinforced concrete immersed tubes, called elements.

- Elements are poured in sections:
 - ✓ 5 sections = 1 element
- 11 elements = 55 concrete pours of the following:
 - ✓ Inverts
 - ✓ Interior walls
 - ✓ Dog houses (exterior walls and roof)
- The elements are being cast in two casting cycles, called litters.
 - ✓ Litter 1: the first 6 elements
 - ✓ Litter 2: the final 5 elements

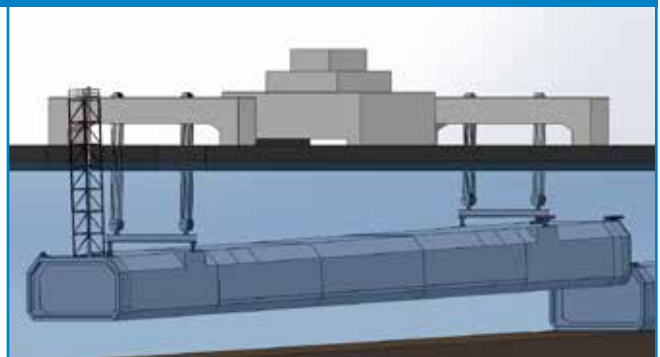
Float Out

The elements are built in a dry dock. Each element is constructed with temporary bulkheads on each side, creating a hollow reinforced concrete tube that is capable of floating. Four temporary water ballast tanks are constructed in each element that will provide stability during floating and towing, and are necessary for immersing the elements. After each litter was completed, crews flooded the dry dock to float the tubes.

The 11 tunnel elements were towed in two litters (Spring 2014 and 2015) 220 miles to the Project site in Portsmouth, Virginia by a tug fleet.

Immersion/Placement of Tunnel Elements

Placement of each tunnel element is performed using a "lay barge." The barge is capable of receiving, supporting, and lowering the elements into place beneath the Elizabeth River.



About the Project

The Elizabeth River Tunnels Project is a public-private partnership of the Virginia Department of Transportation and Elizabeth River Crossings, OpCo LLC. Located in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia, the Project includes:

- A new two-lane tunnel under the Elizabeth River adjacent to the existing Midtown Tunnel
- Significant rehabilitation, fire, life and safety improvements to the existing Midtown and Downtown tunnels
- Extension of the U.S. 58 Martin Luther King Freeway from London Boulevard to Interstate 264 (I-264), with an interchange at High Street, creating an efficient, connected transportation network
- Modifications to the interchange at Brambleton Avenue/Hampton Boulevard in Norfolk
- Complete operations and maintenance responsibilities of the Elizabeth River Tunnels and associated roadways
- An annual subsidy to Hampton Roads Transit to increase bus service between Portsmouth and Norfolk to the highest levels of service, creating a cost-efficient alternative to driving

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1 SKW at Sparrows Point, Maryland is constructing 1 tunnel tube for the Elizabeth River Tunnels Project – the new US 58 West Midtown Tunnel

72,000

the total number of cubic yards of concrete used for the immersed tube tunnel, which is enough concrete to pave a 5' wide x 3" thick sidewalk 221 miles, or roughly the distance from Sparrows Point, Maryland to Portsmouth, Virginia.

16k

the average weight in tons of each new tunnel element

11

the number of concrete elements that make up the new US 58 West Midtown Tunnel

112k

the number of gallons of water each ballast tank can hold. That would fill nearly 25% of an Olympic-size pool!

5

The number of sections that make up one concrete tunnel element

356,200

the number in square ft. of waterproof coating applied to the tunnel elements – enough to cover over six American football fields!

Visit the Travel Impacts page on DriveERT.com for more information.