VA 288 — one of the Transportation Business Group's largest design-build projects

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has awarded a CH2M HILL team a $236-million design-build-warranty contract for a 17-mile segment of Route 288 near Richmond, Virginia. The work includes six new interchanges, the modification of two existing interchanges, and the construction of 23 new bridges. CH2M HILL is a subconsultant to both APAC-Virginia Inc., the design-build contractor, and Koch Performance Roads, the pavement supplier and warrantor.

"This is a very significant win for CH2M HILL," said TBG's Northeast Regional Business Group Manager, Pat Klampe/MKE. "It represents our first major transportation project in Virginia, which we'll use as a springboard for pursuing and winning future work in the state. It's also our second project with a long-term, performance-based pavement warranty, and it's one of our largest design-build transportation projects."

Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2001 and be completed in November 2003.

According to VDOT, the contract will save approximately $47 million and complete the project approximately three years earlier than if it were executed through the traditional project delivery approach managed by VDOT. Other benefits touted by VDOT include the fact that Route 288 will complete a planned western loop around Richmond and provide a much-needed transportation alternative for three surrounding counties. It is also expected to greatly enhance economic development in central Virginia.

Virginia 288 partnership paves way for innovation

"Koch Performance Roads, Inc. (KPRI) has reviewed legislation around the country that allows for public-private partnerships in the transportation industry. Virginia's Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (PPTA) is one of the finest. It is innovative and allows public agencies to seek out market-based solutions to their transportation needs. Our team's approach provides a fast and cost effective solution that does not compromise quality, as is evidenced by the long-term warranty."

"KPRI is excited about working with CH2M HILL on another major project with a long term warranty. We have learned a great deal together on the SR 44 project in New Mexico, which has helped us to form a strong alliance. The lessons learned and knowledge gained are now being utilized to implement this innovative warranty approach in the eastern region of the U.S."

— Rick Volk
Regional General Manager, Koch Performance Roads, Inc.