

**Comments of Mayor Alan P. Krasnoff for the Dominion  
Boulevard Groundbreaking Ceremony  
December 17, 2012**

First I want to extend my personal thanks to Secretary Connaughton, those representing a wide range of state and federal agencies, and our legislative leadership at all levels of government.

It has taken a great deal of hard work to go from a placeholder in a budget into a four-lane reality, but your support and patience have been crucial, and you have our deepest appreciation.

When it is finished, this project - this bridge - will stand as a very clear indication that for Chesapeake, we have found the way to turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones.

When others said wait, we kept pushing.

When others said we would never find a way to cobble together the \$346 million needed to build a bridge, we said we would.

And when others said it might be too big a thing to do, we said we could handle it. And we have.

Put another way, soon this bridge will stand as a significant symbol of our faith and confidence in ourselves. . . of our city's ability to dream big and do great things.

By 2040, the demographers are predicting that over 318,000 people will call Chesapeake home.

Fifty years ago, I doubt anyone could imagine that kind of transformational growth, but grow we have. . . and grow we will.

It's also difficult to imagine that fifty years earlier, anyone might think that - fifty years later - we would need to rebuild a stressed transportation network.

But if we want to ensure our city's prosperity and future - both of which are our obvious but sometimes overlooked core obligations - then we have no choice but to turn a blind eye to those who are unable or unwilling to think big and do great things.

In the scheme of things, a new Dominion Boulevard bridge complex has been a big dream for Chesapeake.

You have helped make that dream come true, and on behalf of Chesapeake, I say thank you, and God bless.