



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Sachin Katkar, Maintenance of Traffic Manager

SAFETY IS JOB #1



The next time you safely drive through the construction zone of the HRBT Expansion project, you can mentally thank Sachin Katkar, VDOT's Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Manager. It's his job to help make sure both the traveling public and construction workers are safe.

Every day Sachin visits construction sites to check that traffic management aids like construction signs, barrels, cones and traffic barriers are properly placed and follow VDOT standards and safety practices. If there are any problems, he works directly with Hampton Roads Connector Partners (HRCP) to immediately make corrections. Sachin works to coordinate lane closures and manage safety measures as construction advances. Safety is truly Job #1 for this career Civil Engineer.

Construction and engineering work for Sachin is a family affair. Born and raised in India, as a child he accompanied his father to construction sites where his Dad worked as a small contractor. According to Sachin, "I studied very hard and got good grades in high school to secure a spot in a government engineering college in India. I obtained a Bachelor of Engineering degree while helping out my father in his business."

Sachin's father encouraged him to continue his education abroad. "I heard many stories that the United States is a land of opportunities, so I decided to pursue a master's degree in civil engineering in the US", Sachin recalls. "After studying hard for graduate school entrance exams, I was fortunate to be admitted to Clemson University in South Carolina. I completed my master's in civil engineering from Clemson and secured my first job in the US, which took me to Phoenix, AZ. To summarize my educational path, I would say this – hard work always pays off. "

Today, Sachin is married and the proud father of two sons, ages 5 and 7. "I spend a lot of time with them, enjoy playing with them in their "pretend games". Sometimes I become their horse, sometimes a scary dinosaur and sometimes an alien robot or a car."

Sachin says he appreciates the importance of his position to the success of the HRBT Expansion project. "Maintenance of traffic and work zone safety is a critical element for a mega project like the HRBT Expansion project. I help to make the work zone better and safer by identifying any deficiencies in the temporary traffic control not only for traveling public, but also for construction workers. I believe that MOT schedule coordination with other stakeholders in the region and other projects helps avoid lane closure conflicts, driver confusion and improves traffic operations."