



## **Top 10 Things to Know About Route 29 Solutions**

### **Relentless focus on delivering transportation solutions by fall of 2017**

VDOT is focused on delivering a package of Route 29 transportation projects that will be completed by Oct. 30, 2017. The Rio Road grade-separated intersection will be complete by Dec. 2, 2016, with the intersection reopened to all traffic movements no later than Sept. 2, 2016.

### **Solutions are not new, developed with community, advisory panel involvement**

The transportation package resulted from the work of a local and regional advisory panel and was approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The improvements are not new and have been on the planning books for years. The projects are supported by the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, the Charlottesville City Council and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization.

### **Benefits for local and regional traffic**

The projects will improve mobility and reduce congestion in the Charlottesville region using a multi-modal approach. Improvements address congestion at specific locations identified in previous studies. They also include parallel road projects that will provide alternate routes for local traffic to help relieve congestion along the corridor. The projects will be designed to accommodate other uses, including sidewalks and paved multi-use paths for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Route 29 Solutions package also includes full funding for a second daily Amtrak passenger train between Lynchburg and Washington, D.C.

### **Design-build projects awarded using a best-value procurement process**

The three design-build projects: Berkmar Drive extension, Route 29 widening and the Rio Road intersection, advanced through the two-phase best-value procurement process. Three design-build teams were selected from the five teams that expressed interest. Those firms submitted technical and price proposals and Lane-Corman Joint Venture was selected as the design builder.

### **Projects are advancing to construction**

The Route 29 / 250 Interchange improvement project is under construction. Final design of the three design-build projects is under way. Utility relocation at the Rio Road project began in May, which will be followed by similar work on the Route 29 widening project later this summer. Roadway construction at Rio Road will begin in late summer; construction on the Route 29 widening and Berkmar Drive extension will start in the fall.

### **Rio Road intersection will be built over the summer of 2016**

There are significant incentives to complete the Rio Road intersection improvements on or before Sept. 2, 2016. All Rio intersection work will be limited to time between the University of Virginia's Final Exercises in May 2016 and the first UVa home football game in September. The intersection must reopen to traffic movements no later than Sept. 2 and construction will be complete by Dec. 2, 2016.

### **Rio Road intersection improvements are necessary**

The Rio Road intersection operates poorly today. Since the John Warner Parkway and McIntire Road interchange projects were completed we've seen additional traffic through the Rio Road intersection. If we did nothing, by 2025, it would operate at poorest level of service even with parallel roads. Completing the parallel roads without improving the Rio Road intersection would make the congestion worse, and the additional traffic would make future improvements more difficult to accomplish.

### **Parallel roads are an essential part of the network**

VDOT is building all of these projects. The Rio Road intersection improvements, the Route 29 / 250 interchange project and the parallel roads are all essential to improve safety, reduce congestion and enhance mobility on the corridor.

### **Construction impacts will be minimized**

Outside the May 23-Sept. 2, 2016 time period four through lanes in each direction on Route 29 and two through lanes in each direction on Rio Road will be maintained from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. All roadway connections and all existing traffic movements will be maintained between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.

### **Public involvement will continue**

The public will be involved throughout the delivery of the projects. The Project Delivery Advisory Panel meetings will be held throughout construction. All of these meetings are open to the public and live-streamed. For the latest information on the project, go to [www.Route29Solutions.org](http://www.Route29Solutions.org). You can get all the information in one place, submit your comments and ask questions. Extensive outreach will continue through the development and delivery of the projects so the public stays informed and involved.

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