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No

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News & Updates

Keeping you informed is critical to a successful project. So in addition to public panel meetings, live streaming, podcasts and an interactive website, we're launching this e-mail blast to expand our communications with the users of the Route 29 corridor. Here you'll find the latest news, project updates and helpful facts.

First Route 29 Solutions Project Advertised for Construction Bids

The first project in the Route 29 Solutions package has advanced toward construction. On Nov. 10, the [Route 29/Route 250 interchange project](#) was advertised for construction bids. The project includes adding a second lane to the ramp from southbound Route 29 (Emmet Street) to westbound Route 250, increasing capacity and improving safety at the interchange.



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ABOUT ROUTE 29 SOLUTIONS

The Route 29 Solutions improvement projects represent a significant investment in mobility and reducing congestion on the

Contract bids will be opened Dec. 17 and the Commonwealth Transportation Board is expected to award the contract in February. Construction will begin in March and the project will be completed no later than May 21, 2016.

Transportation Board Approves Berkmar Drive Extension Alignment

The [Commonwealth Transportation Board](#) has approved the alignment for the 2.3 mile [extension of Berkmar Drive](#) north from Hilton Heights Road to Towncenter Drive. The board approved at its October meeting Alternative A, which was endorsed by the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and favored by members of the public who attended the location public hearing. The approved alignment runs generally parallel to Route 29 and minimizes impacts to a residential property and cultural resources sites.



Photo-illustration of the Berkmar Drive Extended bridge over the South Fork Rivanna River. [Click to see enlarged photo.](#)

The Berkmar Drive Extension will be a two-lane road built on a four-lane right of way to allow for possible

busiest north-south corridor in the Charlottesville / Albemarle County region.

GET THE FACTS

Don't rely on hearsay. Learn the facts of the Route 29 Solutions package from the professionals who are leading the project. We know there are many questions, so we've answered the most common ones we're hearing in an updated Frequently Asked Questions page on the [Route29Solutions.org](#) website under the heading FAQs.



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future expansion. Bike lanes, sidewalks and a paved multi-use path are included.

Design-Build Projects Advance Toward Contract Award

Three design-build firms have been selected as the most qualified from the five teams that expressed interest in the proposal. Those firms -- Lane Construction Corp., Corman Construction Inc., Shirley Contracting Co., and Skanska-Branch A Joint Venture -- are now developing technical and price proposals that will be submitted to VDOT in January. Those proposals will be evaluated and the design-builder will be selected using a scoring process that combines the technical and price proposals.

The three design-build projects -- the widening of Route 29 between Polo Grounds Road and Towncenter Drive at Hollymead, the extension of Berkmar Drive from Hilton Heights Road to Towncenter Drive, and grade separating the Route 29/Rio Road intersection -- will improve mobility and safety on the Route 29 Corridor and construct a parallel road to provide an alternate route for traffic west of Route 29.

The design-build contract will be awarded by the CTB at its February meeting. Construction is expected to begin late in 2015. Rio will be complete by Dec. 2, 2016, with the intersection reopened to all movements by Sept. 2, 2016. The other two projects will finish no later than Oct. 30, 2017.

Project Updates

Berkmar Extension

- The bike lanes and multi-use path will link with existing facilities, providing additional transportation options in the Route 29 corridor.

Route 29 Widening

- A multi-use path has been added on the east side to North Hollymead Drive, where a crosswalk will be built to connect to a sidewalk on the west side. The sidewalk will extend on the west to Towncenter Drive.

Rio Road/Route 29 Intersection

- The project will be complete in 2016. VDOT has eliminated the option to do the intersection construction in 2017.
- A crossover on Rio Road West will be added during the 103-day restricted period to permit left turns out of Merchant's Tire and Hardee's.
- A temporary signal and crossover will be built at the existing intersection of Berkmar and Route 29 south of Rio during the Rio intersection construction, with pre-emption for emergency vehicles.

Route 29/250 Bypass Interchange

- Enhanced decorative treatments for the sound wall were agreed to by Charlottesville and

Albemarle County.

- Utility relocation in the Route 29 median finished a week early.

Adaptive Signals

- Work to install signal loops, signal infrastructure and fiber optics is occurring now.
- The first phase will finish by June 2015 to help manage traffic flow during construction of the Rio intersection.

Hillsdale Extended

- Right of way acquisition begins in January.

Things You Should Know

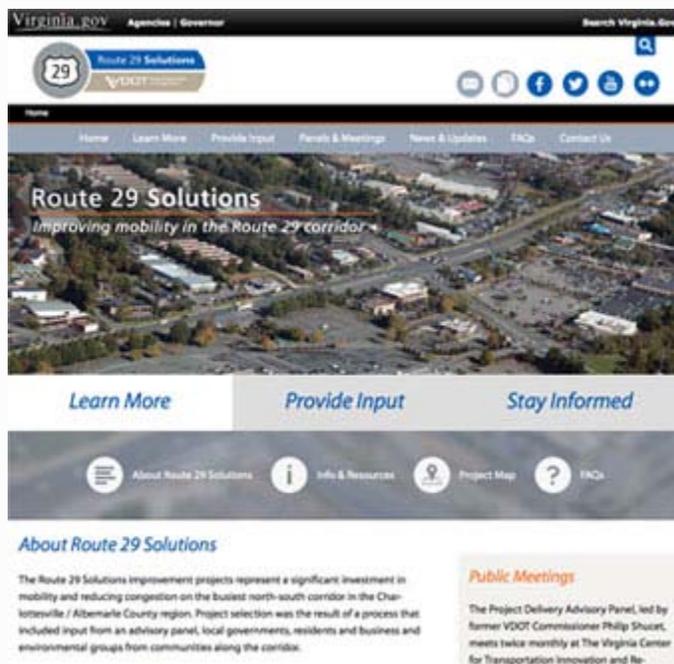
Learn more about the maintenance of traffic plan for the Rio intersection

The Rio/29 intersection will be restricted for 103 days from May 23 - Sept. 2, 2016. During that time, Rio can be closed to east-west traffic across Route 29. Left turns from Rio to Route 29 and from Route 29 to Rio can be closed. Right turns from Route 29 to Rio and Rio to Route 29 will be permitted. Three northbound lanes and two southbound lanes will be maintained on Route 29 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The signalized light at Rio and Route 29 will not be in use during this time, which means north-south Route 29 traffic will move

unimpeded, as will right turns.

Before May 23, 2016 and after Sept. 2, 2016, four through lanes in each direction on Route 29 and two through lanes in each direction on Rio will be maintained from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. All roadway connections and all existing traffic movements will be maintained 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. [View graphic](#).

Redesigned Route 29 Solutions website launched



Route29Solutions.org has been redesigned to enable users to more easily find information about the Route 29 Solutions projects. The site includes a page devoted to detailed information about each of the Route 29 Solutions projects, including project schedule, estimated cost and documents related to that project. The pages are updated regularly as new information is available. It also includes a first for the agency -- an online discussion forum.

Along with project information users can also access information and documents relating to the work of the [Project Delivery Advisory Panel](#), which is working with VDOT to provide feedback and recommendations on the delivery of the Route 29 Solutions projects.



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