



Jan. 30, 2015

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 providing 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.

VDOT Issues Notice of Intent to Award Design-Build Contract

VDOT has informed Lane-Corman Joint Venture of its intent to award the contract to design and construct the three [Route 29 Solutions](#) design-build projects that will improve mobility and safety on the Route 29 corridor and extend two parallel roads to provide alternatives to Route 29.

The team's response to the best value request for proposals was ranked highest in a scoring process that combines technical and price proposals. Lane-Corman's price, \$116.7 million, was the lowest submitted by three shortlisted construction firms.

VDOT will present the recommendation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for award at its Feb. 18 meeting. If the CTB awards the contract, notice to proceed is expected March 4.

The design-build team is comprised of three primary companies: Lane Construction Corp. of Chantilly, Corman Construction Inc. of Chesterfield and engineering firm RK&K of Richmond.

The projects include the [widening of Route 29](#) between Polo Grounds Road and Towncenter Drive at Hollymead,

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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 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

the [extension of Berkmar Drive](#) from Hilton Heights Road to Towncenter Drive, and construction of a grade-separated intersection at the existing intersection of [Route 29 and Rio Road](#).

Construction on the design-build projects is expected to begin late spring/early summer 2015. The Rio intersection project 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.

package from the professionals who are leading the project. We know there are many questions, so we periodically update answers to the most common ones we're hearing on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page on the [Route29Solutions.org](#) website under the heading FAQs.



Please share this newsletter.

Visit [Route29Solutions.org](#) to be added to the enews list.

First Route 29 Solutions Project Contract Awarded

The Commonwealth Transportation Board on Jan. 14 awarded an \$11.1 million contract to Fielder's Choice Enterprises Inc. to construct improvements to the [Route 29 / Route 250 interchange](#) in Charlottesville.

Charlottesville-based Fielder's Choice's bid was the lower of two bids and was within the acceptable range established by the Virginia Department of Transportation for construction of the project.



Survey markers are in place at the Route 29/250 interchange

It's the first roadway improvement in the Route 29 Solutions package to advance to construction. Work is expected to begin in late February. The contract has a fixed completion date of May 21, 2016.

The project will improve the southbound entrance ramp from Route 29 (Emmet Street) onto the Route 250 Bypass by adding a lane on the ramp, lengthening the merge area and adding an additional lane on Route 250 west to the

Barracks Road exit. It also includes an additional southbound lane to Route 29 south of Hydraulic Road to the interchange.

The interchange is part of a package of eight projects in Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Installation of Adaptive Signal Technology Continues

The first phase of the [adaptive traffic signal project](#) is under way. This work involves installation of the telecommunications infrastructure to support the system, including network cabling, vehicle detection equipment and monitoring cameras.

That equipment will be installed at 18 intersections on Route 29 from Hydraulic Road to Airport Road, and at three nearby intersections on roads that intersect Route 29. All work requiring lane or shoulder closures is being done at night. The work will be complete by June.

The equipment installed during the first phase will allow VDOT's traffic engineers to monitor traffic in real time during construction and make adjustments to the signal cycles based on traffic flow, weather, special events and emergency incidents.

Once construction of the Route 29 Solutions projects is finished in October 2017, the second phase of the adaptive signal project, installation of the adaptive signal controllers, will begin. This technology will manage traffic flow in real time both on the mainline (Route 29) and on the intersecting side streets to move traffic more efficiently throughout the corridor.

The adaptive signal controllers will be installed post-construction because they're intended to adapt to the traffic volumes and flow along the corridor once the improvement projects are completed.

Project Updates

[Berkmar Drive Extension](#)

- Progressing within the design-build project delivery process.



Berkmar Drive will be extended north to Hollymead Town Center.

[Route 29 Widening](#)

- Progressing within the design-build project delivery process.
- If the county can acquire right of way to extend the Towncenter Drive sidewalk to meet the new sidewalk on the west side of Route 29, VDOT will construct a connecting sidewalk.

[Rio Road/Route 29 Intersection](#)

- Progressing within the design-build project delivery process.
- The north pedestrian crossing at the Rio/29 intersection was removed to enhance pedestrian safety and allow safer turning movements from Rio on the east side of 29 to 29 North.
- A temporary crossover at Myers Drive was added to provide a relief valve for the northbound traffic wanting to move to Route 29 southbound. Traffic would only be stopped in the southbound Route 29 lanes to allow the u-turn and left turns into Myers Drive.
- The [Project Delivery Advisory Panel](#) is working with the VDOT team on a signing program for both during and post construction. Discussions were held at the Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 advisory panel

meetings and are reflected in the summary minutes and the presentations. The next meeting of VDOT's signing team is Feb. 24.

[Route 29/250 Bypass Interchange](#)

- Ready for construction. See the second news item in this newsletter about the contract award.

[Adaptive Signals](#)

- Work to install signal loops, signal infrastructure and fiber optics continues. See the third news item in this newsletter for details.

[Hillsdale Drive Extended](#)

- This project is being administered by the city of Charlottesville.
- The city has initiated the process for acquisition of the right of way needed for the project.
- VDOT has agreed to assist the city in the acquisition of property owned by the United States Postal Service.



Things You Should Know

[A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words](#)

- The first cut of a Drive-through Video Simulation at the Rio Road/Route 29 intersection is complete and is posted on Route29Solutions.org under Jan. 22 [Advisory Panel Documents](#). The simulation includes four views showing trips traveling north on Route 29, south on Route 29, and left turns from Rio Road onto Route 29.



Drive-through video simulation for the Rio Road intersection -- click image above to watch it in your internet browser.

- Look for the new, updated Rio Road /Route 29 intersection conceptual rendering and aerial video simulation on Route29Solutions.org under the Dec. 18 [Advisory Panel Documents](#).
- An updated [Maintenance of Traffic plan](#) for the Rio Road grade-separated intersection has also been posted on the Rio GSI project page and under Documents & Archives. It now includes arrows for permitted turn movements.

Links to Albemarle County's Business Assistance Initiative

There are now links on the Route 29 Solutions website to documents relating to Albemarle County's initiative to provide assistance to businesses affected by the construction activities. Look for the staff report to the county Board of Supervisors on the [Documents & Archives](#) page. Additional links will be added as the county's initiative progresses.

Disposal of Right of Way Update

On Jan. 15 VDOT initiated steps to terminate the contract for the Route 29 Western Bypass. VDOT is in the process of disposing of the properties purchased for the project. In all, about 125 properties purchased for the bypass will be reviewed to determine whether any of the right-of-way is needed for future transportation improvements as required by law. Once reviews of those properties are complete, the properties will be offered back to the original owners. Again, as required by state law, if the original owner is not interested in repurchasing the property it will be offered for

sale through a sealed bid process.

On Time, On Budget

All the Route 29 Solutions projects remain on schedule and on budget. Below are some important dates for the design-build contract:

- Jan. 26-30: FHWA review and approval of the design-build contract
- Feb. 18: Contract presented to Commonwealth Transportation Board with recommendation for award
- March 3: Contract execution
- March 4: Notice to proceed to design-build contractor



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