



April 14, 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 newsletter to expand our communications with the users of the Route 29 corridor. Here you'll find the latest news, project updates and helpful facts.

CTB Awards Route 29 Solutions Design-Build Contract

The Commonwealth Transportation Board on Feb. 18, 2015 awarded Lane/Corman Joint Venture a \$116.7 million design-build contract to improve the Route 29 corridor in Albemarle County.

The award was followed by a Notice to Proceed on March 4, 2015 to begin design and construction of three Route 29 Solutions projects. Preliminary engineering began in June of 2014 and final design will be completed by Lane/Corman.

The contract includes the following:

- [Rio Road grade-separated intersection](#) – Utility relocations begin in May and roadway construction begins this fall.
- [Route 29 widening](#) between Polo Grounds Road and Towncenter Drive – Utility relocations begin this summer, followed by roadway construction.

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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

- [Berkmar Drive extension](#) from Hilton Heights Road to Towncenter Drive – Roadway construction begins in the spring of 2016.

The contract has a fixed completion date of Oct. 30, 2017.

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

The Route 29 Solutions program includes eight highway projects to improve safety and increase mobility along the Route 29 corridor in Charlottesville and Albemarle County. In addition to the design-build contract, adaptive signal technology is being installed at 21 intersections along the corridor, Hillsdale Drive will be extended south to Hydraulic Road, the Route 29/250 interchange project has been awarded and construction began in March. Preliminary engineering will be done to recommend improvements to the Route 29/Hydraulic Road intersection and an additional extension of Hillsdale Drive. The initiative also fully funds a second daily passenger train between Lynchburg and Washington, D.C.

Route 29/US 250 Interchange Construction Begins

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 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.





Construction is underway for the storm water management basin inside the loop ramp in the southwest quadrant of the Route 29/250 interchange.

After a brief delay imposed by Old Man Winter, construction on the Route 29 / Route 250 Bypass interchange project (aka the Best Buy Ramp) has begun and is rapidly accelerating into high gear. The area inside the loop ramp from the Bypass eastbound onto Emmet Street has been cleared and grading is underway to install a storm water management basin.

Concrete barriers have been installed along the right shoulder of the ramp from Emmet Street onto the Bypass westbound, continuing west to the Barracks Road exit ramp. Those barriers will protect the construction crews as they clear, grade and construct the additional westbound lane from the entrance ramp to Barracks Road. Once the grading is complete the lane will be built, followed by the installation of sound walls along that length of roadway.



Motorists on the Route 250 Bypass will encounter lane closures and new traffic patterns during construction of the new right lane between Emmet Street and Barracks Road.

Motorists traveling south on Emmet Street will also soon see additional construction activities. Signs and barrels will delineate the median work from south of Hydraulic Road to Morton Avenue. The median work includes clearing trees, installation of storm sewer system, roadway widening, and the installation of guardrail and sidewalk. The majority of this work will be performed at night and will include nighttime lane closures.

The weekly Route 29 Solutions Traffic Alert will have updated information on the construction activities and any lane closures or other work that will affect motorists. The alerts are emailed each Friday and posted on the Route 29 Solutions website on the [News and Traffic Alerts](#) page.

Signing the Route 29/Rio Road Intersection

Helping motorists navigate the Route 29 / Rio Road intersection during and after construction is a high priority. That's why the VDOT project team and the Project Delivery Advisory Panel are spending considerable effort exploring signage to help direct motorists where they want to go.

The project team is researching sign concepts and reviewing suggestions offered by PDAP members. Among the concepts is identifying the four business quadrants formed by the intersection and creating a signing program based on those identifications.

To aid that effort, VDOT is using Southeastern Institute of Research Inc. (SIR) to conduct research, including surveying residents, on Route 29 / Rio Road intersection place naming. SIR is also tracking public awareness, understanding and behavioral change through the delivery of the Route 29 Solutions projects. SIR gave a presentation to the PDAP April 2, which is posted under the Advisory Panel Documents tab at route29solutions.org.

SIR's key takeaways:

- A majority of travelers along the Route 29 corridor are aware and familiar with the Route 29 corridor improvement projects. Heavy users tend to be significantly more familiar.
- The level of information received regarding the project relates to greater familiarity with Route 29 plans overall, and with taking specific actions – i.e., changing one's route, changing one's travel time, visiting the project website, and so on.
- VDOT's information efforts appear to be working. A majority of respondents are aware and familiar with VDOT's information efforts, including the information campaign name, "Route 29 Solutions." Heavy users are significantly more likely to be familiar with VDOT information and the Route 29 Solutions name. There is a relationship between being aware of VDOT information and receiving a sufficient amount of information about the project.
- Almost all of the respondents are familiar with the

Rio Road intersection of Route 29. This intersection doesn't have one overarching name. When defining and naming this intersection, consider including the word "Rio" in the naming architecture.

- When defining and naming quadrants that make up the Rio Road intersection, many respondents identify with Fashion Square and Albemarle Square, but not with Colonial Square or Progress Square. If and when defining and naming the quadrants, consider using the word "corner" as part of the names. Most respondents did not offer alternative names for the four quadrants that make up the Rio Road intersection. However, of those that did offer alternative names, the word "Rio" was included most often.

Project Updates

Berkmar Drive Extension

- Progressing within the design-build project delivery process. Utility relocations begin this fall, followed by roadway construction beginning in the spring of 2016.
- Lane Corman's design concept submitted as part of technical proposal is posted at route29solutions.org in Documents & Archives under Design-Build Proposal Submittals and Rankings.

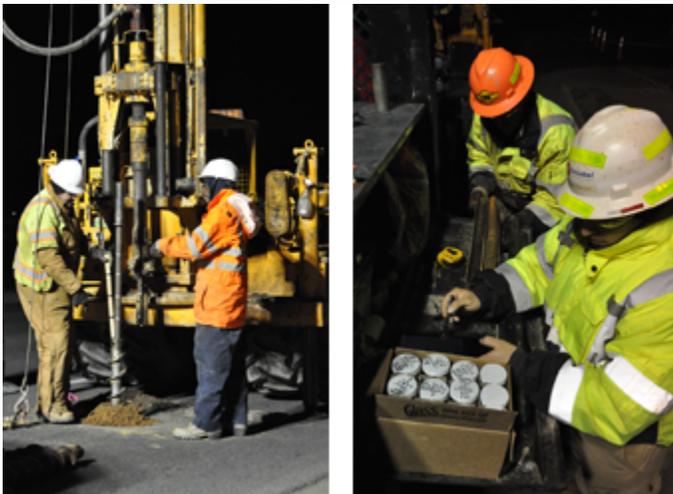
Route 29 Widening

- Progressing within the design-build project delivery process. Utility relocations begin this summer, followed by roadway construction.

- 30 percent design plans are posted at route29solutions.org in the Documents & Archives tab.



Drilling and core sampling is being done to determine subsurface conditions before relocation of utilities begins at Rio Road and the Route 29 widening projects.



Some of the work requires nighttime lane closures. The drill crew performs boring (left) while technicians remove a core sample and record the sample data (right).

[Rio Road/Route 29 Intersection](#)

- Progressing within the design-build project delivery process.
- 30 percent design plans have been submitted and are available at route29solutions.org in the

Documents & Archives tab.

- A temporary crossover at Myers Drive will be modified to allow u-turns on Route 29, but not left turns into Myers Drive.
- Subsurface soil testing is being done to verify conditions before utility relocations begin. That work is anticipated to start in May.

[Route 29/250 Bypass Interchange](#)

- Under construction. See the second news item in this newsletter for a construction wrap-up.
- The southwest quadrant was cleared for a storm water management system.
- Work will begin soon to widen the median on Route 29 for an extra travel lane.

[Adaptive Signals](#)

- The majority of the infrastructure installations have been completed.
- Remaining work includes improvements to the signal at Route 29 and Woodbrook Road. The signal hardware at that location, including the signal cabinet and electrical service, is outdated and cannot accommodate the new adaptive signal equipment.

[Hillsdale Drive Extended](#)

- This project is being administered by the city of Charlottesville.
- VDOT is assisting the city with the acquisition of United States Postal Service property needed for

the right of way. VDOT has submitted an initial proposal to the Postal Service.

Things You Should Know

Route 29 Solutions Traffic Alerts

- Traffic alerts for the Route 29 Solutions projects are now available on the project website under [News & Traffic Alerts](#). Sign up for alerts to be delivered to your e-mail on the [News & Updates](#) page.

Read Project Documents

Important new project documents are posted on the [Documents & Archives](#) page of the project website:

- Review the 30 percent design plans for the RIO GSI.
- Review the 30 percent design plans for Route 29 widening.
- Review the Berkmar Extended design concept plans from Lane Corman's Jan. 6, 2015 technical proposal.
- Read the design-build technical and price proposals.

Links to recent presentations are also posted:

- Southeastern Institute for Research presentation on public knowledge about the projects and placenaming initiative.
- Presentation on Albemarle County's Route 29 Solutions business assistance program.

- Philip Shucet's presentation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board Feb. 17, 2015.

On Time, On Budget

All the Route 29 Solutions projects remain on schedule and on budget. Below are some important dates:

- April-May: Utility relocations begin at Route 29 and Rio Road
- July 2015: Utility relocation begins on Route 29 widening between Polo Grounds Road and Towncenter Drive
- September 2015: Construction begins on Rio Road grade-separated intersection
- October 2015: Utility relocations begin on Berkmar Drive Extended project
- March 2016: Construction begins on Route 29 widening and Berkmar Drive Extended projects
- May 21, 2016: Route 29 / Route 250 Interchange construction complete
- May 23, 2016: Rio Road intersection restrictions begin
- September 2, 2016: Rio Road intersection reopens to all traffic movements
- December 2, 2016: Rio Road project construction complete
- October 30, 2017: All project construction complete



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