

Your guide to the Route 29 Solutions Projects

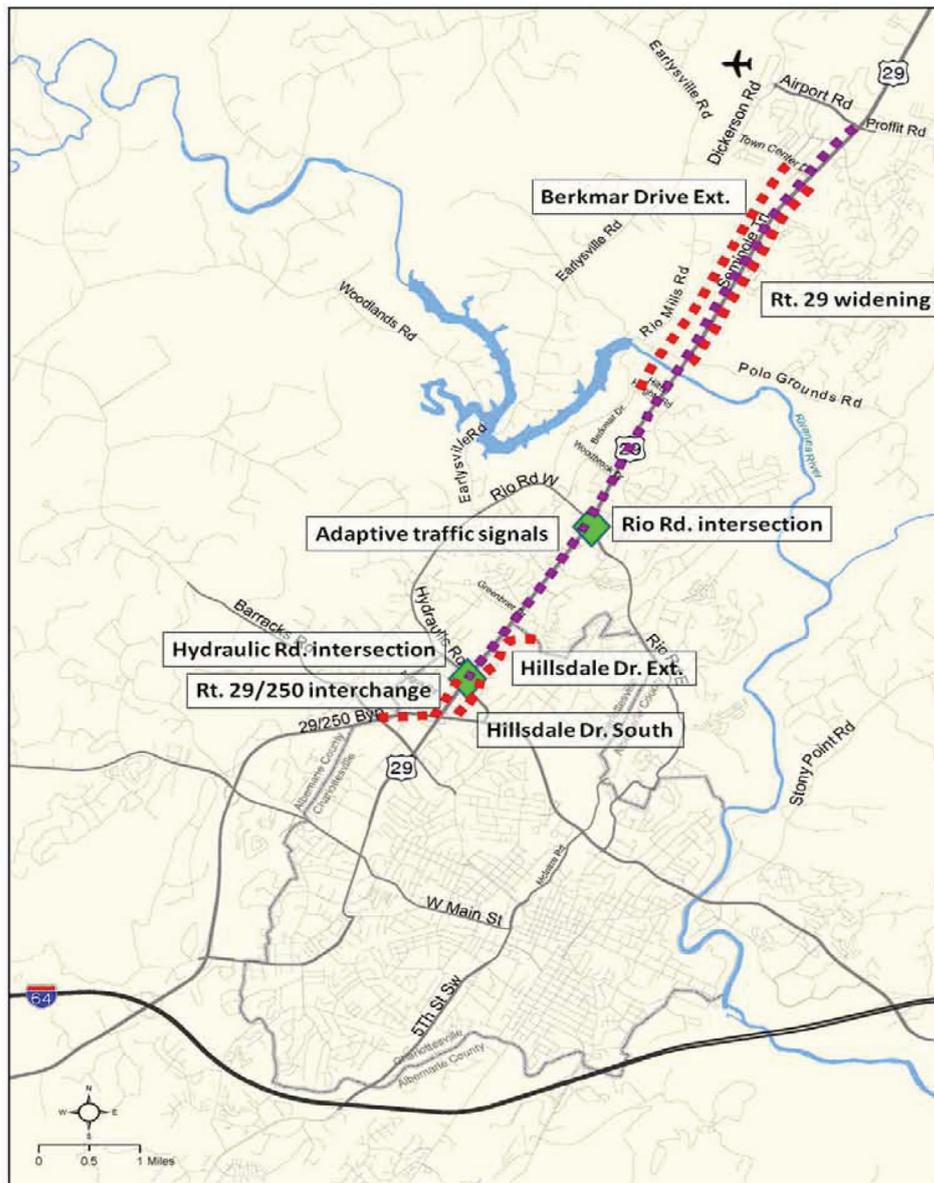
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The Route 29 Solutions Package is a \$230 million investment into the improvement of Albemarle County's infrastructure to address congestion in the Route 29 corridor. This investment will boost economic development and improve mobility in this critical transportation corridor through new road construction, existing roadway improvements, streamlined signalization, and funding for increased rail service. The selection of projects was the result of a process that included input from the Route 29 Solutions Advisory Panel, local governments, business and environmental groups.

The \$230 million in funding will support:

- Route 29/250 interchange improvements (Best Buy Ramp)
- Hillsdale Drive Extension
- Widening and improving Route 29 from Polo Grounds Road to Town Center Drive
- Adaptive signal technology on Route 29
- Hillsdale Drive extension south to Holiday Drive
- Berkmar Drive extension north to Hollymead Town Center
- Route 29/Rio Road grade-separated intersection
- Study and preliminary engineering for improvements to the intersection of Hydraulic Road and Route 29
- Study the extension of Hillsdale Drive south to Holiday Drive
- A second passenger train between Lynchburg and Washington, D.C.



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Route29Solutions@VDOT.Virginia.gov

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Visit www.route29solutions.org and choose "Share Your Views"

Attend/Watch Project Delivery Advisory Panel Meetings

Visit www.route29solutions.org and choose "Advisory Panel"

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bos@albemarle.org

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engage.albemarle.org

Comment Directly to the Board during upcoming meetings

www.albemarle.org/agenda

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I want to know more...

Answers to your most frequently asked questions.



Why is the Rio intersection prioritized ahead of the parallel roads? Wouldn't putting in the parallel roads first give commuters an alternative to Rt. 29 while construction is going on?

During construction of the Rio intersection, existing Berkmar and Hillsdale will continue to provide alternatives to using Route 29 both north and south of the Rio intersection. The parallel roads will offer alternatives to using Route 29. But, if the parallel roads were constructed first, traffic passing through the Rio intersection heading to or coming from Hillsdale Drive, Berkmar Drive and John Warner Parkway would increase congestion at the already poorly functioning intersection that currently must handle both local and through traffic. By completing the Rio project first, traffic passing through the intersection heading to or from Hillsdale, Berkmar or the John Warner Parkway will be served by an improved grade-separated intersection at Rio Road that will operate at efficient levels of service for both local and through traffic.

Why is VDOT considering widening 29 and working on the Rio intersection at the same time? What is the rationale behind two major improvements in proximity of each other going on simultaneously?

There will be some overlap during construction of the projects, but both projects are not being constructed at the same time. Financial incentives are being used to start and complete the Rio project between May 23, 2016, and September 2, 2016. For the Rt. 29 Widening project, major roadway construction within the right-of-way will begin in August 2016 and will finish on or before October 30, 2017. During the widening of Rt. 29, current capacity levels will be maintained.

Why wasn't the Hydraulic Intersection prioritized ahead of Rio? Isn't it the far more congested intersection?

The Hydraulic Intersection is more congested than the Rio Intersection, however, the Rio intersection project is an isolated construction project while Hydraulic is not. Hydraulic is a complex project because of the proximity of the 29/250 interchange.

Why is this proceeding so fast and what are the projected completion dates for these projects?

The projects included in the Route 29 Solutions Package are following all development processes and requirements. All of the projects were studied as part of Places 29. The Route 29 Solutions Package includes funding to complete four projects that were already in the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) long-range plan and VDOT's Six-Year Improvement Program. The Rio intersection project was already included in the MPO's long-range plan, and is now funded for construction in VDOT's Six-Year Improvement Program. The firm fixed completion date for all projects is October 30, 2017.

Will construction happen during heavy commute times? Will construction be at night when there is less traffic on the road?

Only limited construction activities that do not require lane closures will occur during commuting hours. In non-residential areas, there will be construction at night when there is less traffic on the road.

Will there be help for businesses along the corridor during this time?

A variety of methods can be used to assist businesses affected by transportation construction projects. Those strategies range from enhanced direction signage to business counseling and cooperative marketing. VDOT, Albemarle County, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization are working with affected businesses to develop meaningful appropriate assistance to businesses during construction.

What opportunities will there be for public input?

There are multiple opportunities for public involvement. Public hearings will be held for each project and additional information regarding the design public hearings will be publicly announced. Information in advance of the hearings will be available on route29solutions.org and at VDOT's Residency office in Charlottesville. The public is encouraged to attend all public hearings and submit comments. VDOT will review all comments and include appropriate suggestions in the design and construction of the projects. The PDAP (Project Delivery Advisory Panel) meetings are open to the public, streamed live, and posted on route29solutions.org. Public comments may also be submitted anytime through route29solutions.org.

Will the Route 29 Solutions Package impact funding for other road needs in the County? Will these projects take all the money for years to come from other badly needed improvements?

No, the funding for the Route 29 Solutions Package does not impact funds for other road needs. The money to construct the Route 29 Solutions Package was transferred from the Route 29 Western Bypass project. Funds were not transferred from any other projects.

How do I stay up to date on the progress of these projects?

Check route29solutions.org for regular updates to the Route 29 Solutions Package of projects. There you can find general information as well as links to specific projects that are part of the solution package. You can also watch the PDAP meetings live at route29solutions.org, or watch post-meeting videos of all past meetings. The panel meetings are held at the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research, 530 Edgemont Road, Charlottesville 22903, and are open to the public for anyone who wishes to attend.

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