



## Briefing to Route 29 North Neighborhood Roundtable

December 11, 2014

**Lou Hatter**

Communications Manager  
Route 29 Solutions



# Route 29 Solutions

## Project History: Phase I -- Project Selection

**In March, Secretary Layne directed VDOT to recommend improvements to improve mobility and reduce congestion in the Route 29 Corridor:**

- Affordable within a budget of about \$200 million
- Considered multi-modal transportation alternatives
- Selected using a transparent process
- Must be completed within three to four years

### **Advisory panel appointed to represent interests along the corridor**

- Local governments, business and environmental interests represented
- Surveyed a range of options
- Selected projects to improve safety and ensure mobility for both local and regional traffic
- Did not vote and consensus was not required

### **Recommendations presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board**

- Nine projects selected for implementation
- In June, CTB fully funded Rt. 29 Solutions package in the Six-Year Improvement Program



## Route 29 Solutions



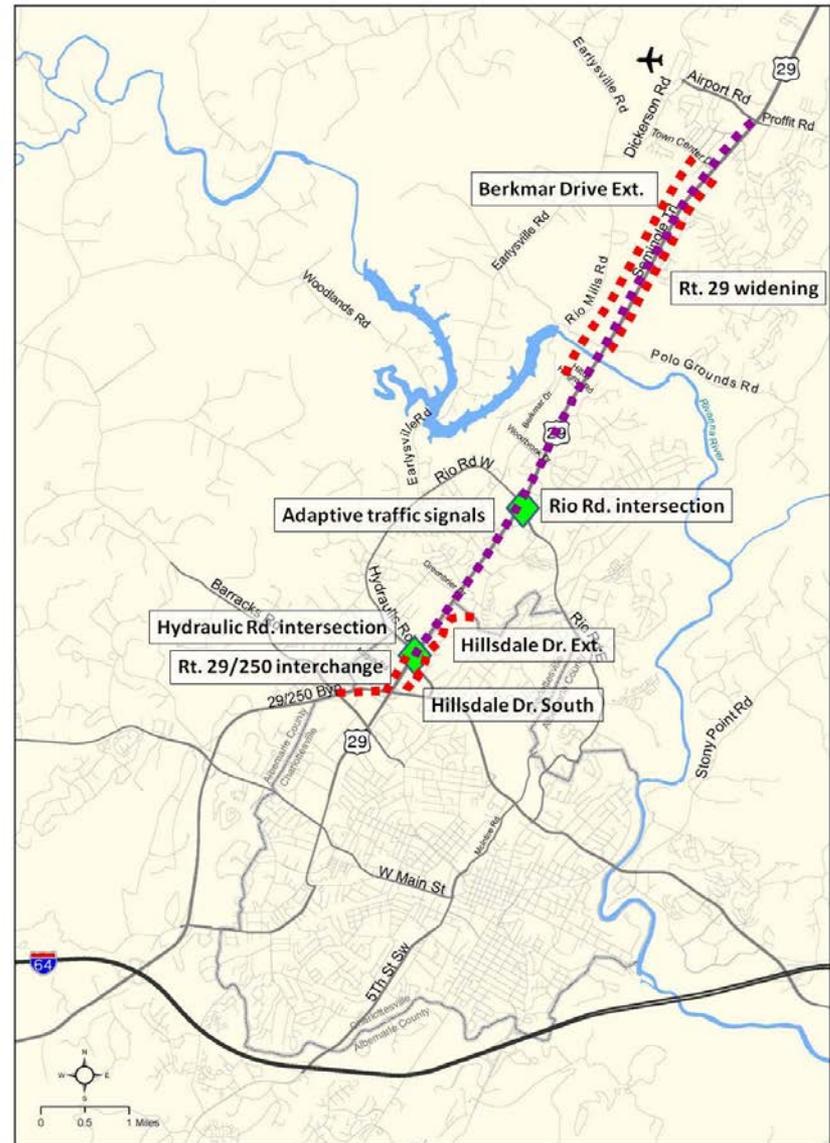
### Phase 1 -- Project Selection (continued)

#### Eight highway projects:

- Route 29 Widening, Polo Grounds Road to Towncenter Drive
- Berkmar Drive Extension, Hilton Heights Road to Towncenter Drive
- Rio Road grade-separated intersection
- Route 29/250 Interchange improvements (“Best Buy ramp”)
- Hillsdale Drive Extended (City of Charlottesville)
- Adaptive Traffic Signal Technology
- Hydraulic Road intersection (study only)
- Hillsdale Drive South, Hydraulic Road to Holiday Drive (study only)

**A second daily passenger train,  
Lynchburg to Washington, D.C.**

# 29 Solutions Package





# Route 29 Solutions

## Phase 2: Project Delivery -- Design and Construction

### Project Delivery Advisory Panel formed

- Represents local governments, businesses and environmental community
- Advises VDOT project team on aspects of the design and delivery of the projects
- Significant recommendations have made positive changes
- Meets every two weeks: Thursday, 2 p.m., Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research at UVa
- Will continue to meet through construction of the projects

### Projects advance toward construction

- Three projects advancing as single design-build package
- Design-build contract award set for Feb. 18, 2015
- Route 29/250 Interchange advertised for construction bids in November
- City of Charlottesville managing delivery of Hillsdale Drive Extended
- Adaptive Signal Technology, phase one, under construction
- All construction projects to be completed on or before Oct. 30, 2017
- Hydraulic Road and Hillsdale Drive South combined into one preliminary engineering study; funded to begin FY 2019



# Projects At A Glance

## Route 29 Widening

### Improvements to the “hourglass” between Polo Grounds Road and Towncenter Drive

- Widen the 1.8-mile section to three lanes in each direction
- Address stopping sight distance issues along the corridor
- Address grade of northbound lanes to eliminate hills at several locations (ex. Ashwood Blvd.)
- Included in design-build package

### Construction requirements

- Two lanes maintained in each direction between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.
- Access maintained to neighborhoods, businesses and private entrances

### Project schedule

- March 4, 2015: Notice to proceed
- March 2015: Design phase kickoff
- First quarter 2016: Construction begins
- Oct. 30, 2017: Firm fixed completion date

# Projects At A Glance

## Berkmar Drive Extension

### Extend Berkmar Drive north from Hilton Heights Road to Towncenter Drive

- 2.3-mile extension includes bridge over South Fork Rivanna River
- Two-lane road built on four-lane ROW for possible future expansion
- Includes sidewalks, bike lanes and paved multi-use trail
- Part of design-build package

### Construction requirements

- Built on new alignment
- Minimal effect on existing roads

### Project schedule

- March 4, 2015: Notice to proceed
- March 2015: Design phase kickoff
- First quarter 2016: Construction begins
- Oct. 30, 2017: Firm fixed completion date





# Projects At A Glance

## Route 29 / Rio Road Intersection

### Grade separation of the intersection

- Separate local and through traffic
- Remove conflicts and improve safety and operation
- Improve access for pedestrians
- Included in design-build package

### Construction requirements

- Lane closures restricted to nighttime hours: 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Access maintained to all businesses at all times

### Project schedule

- March 4, 2015: Notice to proceed
- March 2015: Design phase kickoff
- Third quarter 2015: Utility relocation begins
- Late 2015: Construction begins
- May 23-Sept. 2, 2016: Rio intersection restrictions during bridge and road construction
- Sept. 2, 2016: Rio / Rt. 29 intersection restored to all movements
- Dec. 2, 2016: All intersection construction work complete





# Projects At A Glance

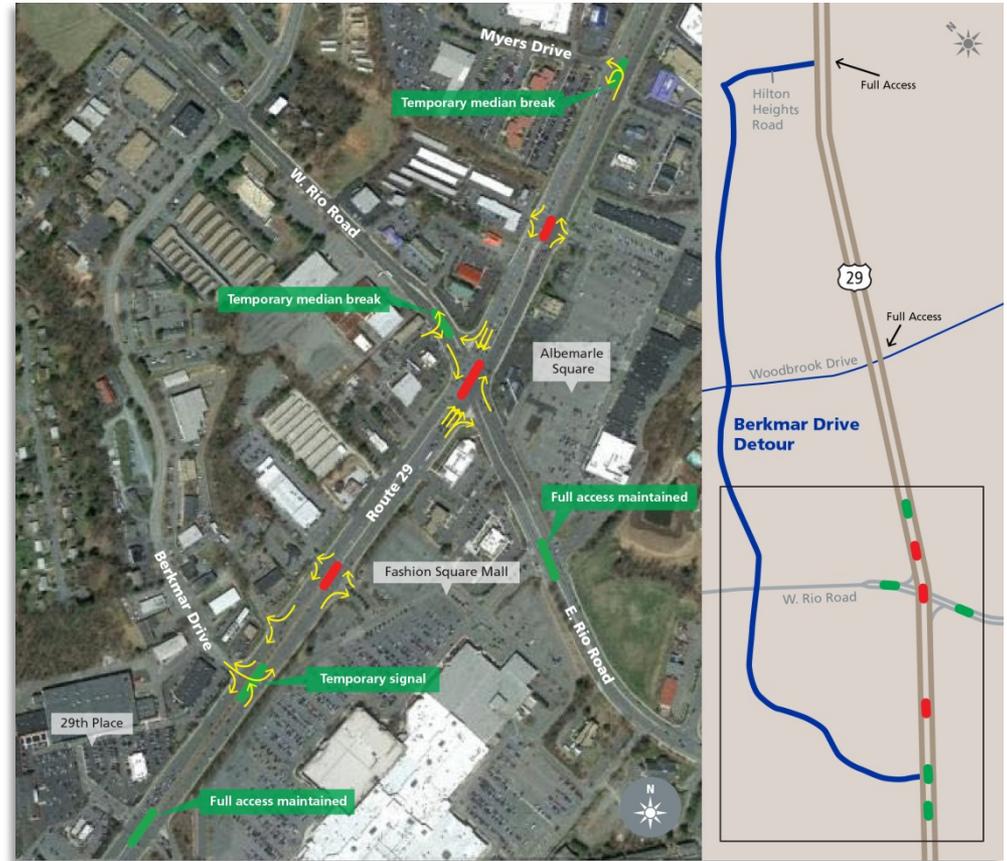
## Route 29 / Rio Road Intersection

**May 23-Sept. 2, 2016**

- Rio can be closed to east-west traffic across Rt. 29
- No left turns from Rio to Rt. 29 or Rt. 29 onto Rio
- Right turns maintained
- 3 NB and 2 SB lanes maintained between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m

**Before May 23 and after Sept. 2**

- Four through lanes in each direction on Rt. 29 maintained from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Two through lanes in each direction on Rio Road maintained from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.



**All existing right-in, right-out entrances will be maintained during construction**  
**Temporary signalized crossover at Berkmar Dr. and Rt. 29**  
**Temporary median break at Myers Dr. to allow U-turns, left turns from NB Rt. 29**



# Projects At A Glance

## Route 29 / 250 Interchange Improvements

### Improve safety and capacity of interchange and approaches

- Third SB lane on Emmet Street from south of Hydraulic Road to 29/250 interchange
- Second ramp lane from SB Route 29 onto Route 250 Bypass WB
- Extend merge lane on Route 250 WB from interchange to Barracks Road
- Sidewalk for pedestrians between Angus Road and Morton Drive
- Sound walls to mitigate noise for residents and businesses adjacent to Route 250

### Construction requirements

- Construction done while maintaining traffic flow
- Maintain access to businesses along Emmet Street

### Project schedule

- Nov. 10: Advertised for bids
- Dec. 17: Bids due
- March - April 2015: Construction begins
- May 21, 2016: Firm fixed completion date



# Projects At A Glance

## Hillsdale Drive Extended

### Extend Hillsdale Drive south from Greenbrier Drive to Hydraulic Road

- Provides an alternative for traffic on the east side of Route 29 between Hydraulic Road and East Rio Road
- Two-lane facility
- Will be constructed with bicycle lanes and sidewalks
- Project administered by the City of Charlottesville

### Construction requirements

- Built on new alignment; minimal impacts to existing road network

### Project schedule

- 2015: Complete right of way acquisition
- First quarter 2016: Project bid for construction; work begins
- Oct. 30, 2017: Firm fixed completion date

## Adaptive Traffic Signal Technology

### Installation of state-of-the-art traffic signal control system

- 21 intersections between Hydraulic Road and Airport/Proffit Road plus several nearby intersections
- City working on installation of the same system on Emmet Street
- Signals manage traffic in real time to maximize efficient flow through the corridor
- Similar to system installed on Route 250 East at Pantops (pilot study corridor)

### Construction requirements

- Nighttime lane closures to install infrastructure: network cabling, cameras, vehicle detection hardware
- Installation in two phases
  - Phase one: Network infrastructure
  - Phase two: Installation of adaptive signal controllers

### Project schedule

- Fall 2014: Phase one under way; completion in June 2015
- Fall 2017: Phase two installation begins; completion after Oct. 30, 2017



# Projects At A Glance

## Route 29 / Hydraulic Road and Hillsdale Drive South

### Originally proposed as two separate projects

- Study and preliminary engineering of Route 29 / Hydraulic Road intersection for possible future improvements
- Hillsdale Drive South proposed as extension from Hydraulic Road south to Holiday Drive
- Hillsdale Drive South project combined with Hydraulic Road study at request of Project Delivery Advisory Panel
- Improvements in that area require a broad study encompassing the roadway network

### Future requirements

- To advance beyond preliminary engineering, projects must be included in MPO Long-Range Plan, prioritized and funded by CTB

### Project schedule

- Study and preliminary engineering scheduled to begin in FY 2019



# Projects At A Glance

## Phasing and Construction Completion Dates

**First phase of the Adaptive Traffic Signal project will be complete by June 2015 to help manage traffic in real time during construction**

**Rt. 29 / 250 interchange improvements will be complete by May 21, 2016, before the start of the Rio intersection restriction (May 23, 2016)**

**Rio Road grade-separated intersection will open to all traffic movements by Sept. 2, 2016; intersection construction complete by Dec. 2, 2016**

**Route 29 Widening, Berkmar Drive Extension and Hillsdale Extension will be complete no later than Oct. 30, 2017**

**Hydraulic intersection and Hillsdale Drive South study begins in FY 2019**



# Public Outreach

## Business Outreach and Assistance

### Albemarle County leading joint County-City-MPO-VDOT effort

- Several meetings already held to gather comments and suggestions
- Efforts most focused on businesses near project locations
- Board of Supervisors received staff presentation on Dec. 3
- Recommendations for assistance program will be considered in Q1 2015
- Assistance may include relaxed signing ordinance, marketing assistance, business counseling

### VDOT communications program

- Single contact for businesses: Lou Hatter
- Work zone program will include interim signing plans
- VDOT, county cooperating to develop post-construction signing
- Project Delivery Advisory Panel will provide input and review business assistance program recommendations
- Contractor must review construction access plans with advisory panel



# Public Outreach

## Community Outreach

### Joint effort with Albemarle County-City-MPO-VDOT

- Construction will affect all who use Route 29 corridor
- Focus is ensuring that motorists can navigate construction with minimal inconvenience and delays
- Targeted messaging to residents, commercial interests (ex. trucking companies), other users (ex. commuters, UVa community)
- Several sub-groups formed to advise on outreach to special groups (ex. emergency responders)

### VDOT communications program

- Significant multi-media advertising program through construction – targets business as well as others affected
- Outreach includes travelers as well as local residents
- Partnering is critical: materials distributed through local businesses, including hotels
- Messaging extends north and south along corridor to inform regional traffic
- [www.Route29Solutions.org](http://www.Route29Solutions.org) for consistent project information and updates



# Public Outreach

## Community Engagement

### Your comments and suggestions are welcome

- Public involvement is important
- Email [Route29Solutions@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Route29Solutions@VDOT.Virginia.gov)
- Public discussion forum on Route 29 Solutions web page
- Contact Lou Hatter or Joel DeNunzio directly
  - Lou Hatter: (434) 422-9866; [Lou.Hatter@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Lou.Hatter@VDOT.Virginia.gov)
  - Joel DeNunzio: (434) 422-9373; [Joel.DeNunzio@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Joel.DeNunzio@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

### Stay involved

- Sign up for the Route 29 Solutions email newsletter
- Visit the web site
- View the Project Delivery Advisory Panel meetings
  - Streamed live on the Internet
  - Podcasts posted to the project web page



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