

The Virginia Department of Transportation is developing a strategy to implement reasonable, cost-effective solutions to address the congestion in the Charlottesville Route 29 corridor.

Background

Route 29 is one of three north-south transportation corridors that span Virginia, stretching 248 miles from the Key Bridge at the Potomac River to the North Carolina state line near Danville. It is designated a High-Priority Corridor on the National Highway System and a Corridor of Statewide Significance. Improvements to relieve congestion in the Charlottesville area have been considered for many years. Most recently, in February the [Federal Highway Administration expressed concerns](#) about the construction of a new highway known locally as the Route 29 Western Bypass. Given those concerns VDOT is identifying reasonable alternatives to ensure the continued efficient movement of people and goods and the viability of this vital transportation corridor.

Route 29 Advisory Panel

The communities along the Route 29 Corridor must be involved in the effort to identify the appropriate solutions and provide support for implementing those solutions. An advisory panel representing those communities is assisting in the development of alternatives that improve mobility in the Charlottesville region.

Recommended Solutions

Former Virginia Department of Transportation Commissioner Philip Shucet presented a solutions package at the Advisory Panel's May 8 meeting. http://www.virginiadot.org/VDOT/Projects/asset_upload_file752_71834.pdf. The state's transportation board must approve the plan, and local officials also must sign off before the work can begin. Among the plan's features:

- » \$43 million to complete projects included in the county's Places29 plan
- » \$81 million for a Rio Road interchange and a total \$145 million for new construction
- » \$10 million for preliminary engineering on a Hydraulic Road interchange
- Full details of the recommended solution plan, along with background information and meeting materials can be found on the VDOT website - http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/route_29_solutions.asp#panel
- Comments may be submitted to the panel using the [comment form on this web page](#) or by email at Route29Solutions@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

Next Steps

The Board of Supervisors will discuss the recommended solution plan at their meeting on May 14, with action by the Board a possibility. The public comment section of the Board's May 14 meeting will begin at 7:00 pm, and discussion of this item will occur later in the meeting.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will discuss the recommended solution plan at their meeting on May 13 at 2:00 pm at the Doubletree by Hilton in Charlottesville.