This edition of the Route 29 Solutions e-mail newsletter includes everything you need to know about the status of the Route 29 Solutions projects: Rio Grade-Separated Intersection, Route 29 Widening, Berkmar Drive Extension and Hillsdale Drive Extension.

Cranes are being prepared to set the steel beams that will support the deck of the bridge over the South Fork Rivanna River. Two more cranes will arrive later this week; the first beams will be set next week.

**Intermittent Closures of Rio Mills Rd. Coming During Bridge Construction in Early September**

Construction of the Berkmar Drive Extension will begin a new phase in early September when the deck beams for the bridge over the South Fork Rivanna River are set in
Six road closures are planned, beginning Wednesday, Sept. 7. Each closure will begin at 10 a.m. and will be lifted at 2 p.m., or sooner if the operation is completed earlier than expected. The full schedule is below. The work is weather dependent and may be rescheduled if conditions, including high winds, are not favorable.

- Wednesday Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Thursday Sept. 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Friday Sept. 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Monday Sept. 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Tuesday Sept. 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Wednesday Sept. 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

During the closures, which will affect the south end of Rio Mills Road, traffic can still access the residential and commercial properties on the north end of Rio Mills Road using Earlysville Road.

The Berkmar Drive Extension project also involves extensive earth work, which continues along the entire 2.2-mile alignment parallel to and west of Route 29. Crews are setting pipes to carry several streams underneath the road, building storm water retention ponds, grading the right of way, and spreading and compacting fill to reach the final roadway grade.

On the north end of the Route 29 widening project the grading and filling is nearly complete. The new southbound lanes will be constructed on the alignment now being brought to rough grade.
South of Ashwood Boulevard, excavators are cutting back the slope to make room for the new southbound lanes. In the foreground a worker uses a compactor to prepare the base for installation of the concrete curb on the inside lane.

**Southbound Lanes Under Construction on Route 29 Widening Project**

In early August southbound traffic was shifted to new pavement built in the median of Route 29 between Hollymead Town Center and Polo Grounds Road on the [Route 29 widening project](https://example.com). After the shift, crews began earthwork to extend the roadway alignment to the west. That work is progressing quickly with as many as 11 excavators and a phalanx of dump trucks moving dirt along the 1.8-mile project.

Once the rough grade is established, the new southbound lanes will be built. The southbound lanes will then shift back to the new pavement and the northbound lanes will shift to the median pavement. That shift is scheduled for this winter. The next phase will be reconstruction and widening of the northbound lanes and construction of the 10-foot-wide, paved multi-use path just to the east of the northbound lanes.

The project is scheduled for completion on Oct. 30, 2017.
A paving crew lays asphalt on the local lanes at the Route 29-Rio Road intersection. After the paving crew has placed the final surface course of asphalt on the local and through lanes, permanent pavement markings will be applied.

**Rio Road Grade-Separated Intersection in Final Phase of Construction**

The new Rio Road grade-separated intersection is open to traffic but over-night closures continue as the contractor works toward the Dec. 2 project completion date.

Final paving is under way at the intersection, which received the intermediate course of asphalt as a condition to reopen the intersection to traffic. That paving will bring the asphalt level with the manhole covers, gutter pans and drainage inlets. Once the paving is complete the permanent pavement markings -- including lane lines, pedestrian crosswalks and route shields -- will be applied.

There are several significant items to be completed, including installation of lighting fixtures for the depressed through lanes, application of sealer and stain to the concrete walls and placement of the landscaping elements.

Traffic engineers with VDOT and the contractor continue to fine-tune the traffic signal timing along the Route 29 corridor to achieve the most efficient flow of traffic. The timing will continue to be adjusted through construction and will likely be adjusted again once construction at the
intersection is complete and the speed limit is restored to 45 mph.

Drivers should be aware that they will encounter lane closures on Route 29 between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday night through Saturday morning, and that the Rio Road crossover will be closed to traffic during those hours as well.

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**Hillsdale Extension Construction Gets Rolling**

Fielder’s Choice Enterprises crews are mobilizing and clearing right-of-way to begin construction of the Hillsdale Drive Extension from Greenbrier Drive to Hydraulic Road. Fielder’s Choice is the same contractor that built the Route 29/250 interchange improvements as part of the Route 29 Solutions package of projects.

Utility relocations are about 80 percent complete and demolition of a building in the path of the new road has begun. Construction activities up first include the bridge, the roundabout and a retaining wall adjacent to the Pepsi building.

A new three-way stop is being implemented at the intersection of India Road and Line Drive to aid construction equipment entering the roadway from the construction yard. Advance warning signs and stop bars as well as stop signs with orange flags will be installed to control traffic at the intersection.

The road is scheduled for completion Oct. 30, 2017, the same date as the remaining Route 29 Solutions projects.

The one-mile extension will offer an alternative to Route 29 for local traffic that completes a parallel road network to Route 29. It consists of a new three-lane road and bridge with bike lanes north of Greenbrier Drive and a shared use path south of Greenbrier Drive.

The City of Charlottesville is managing the project with VDOT assistance.

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**Extras**
Labor Day Work Schedule

Work on the Route 29/Rio intersection, Route 29 widening and Berkmar will be suspended for most of the upcoming Labor Day weekend. The contractor will work overnight Friday, beginning at 9 p.m. and ending at 6 a.m. Saturday. Work will be suspended Saturday, Sunday and during the day Monday and will resume at 9 p.m. Monday.

Don't Miss This Video

The Route 29/Rio intersection was closed, rebuilt and opened in 57 days. Watch a 90-second time-lapse video of the work starting 5 p.m. Sunday, May 22 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 19.

Get Connected

Hotlines: We’re here for you

- Lane-Corman Joint Venture, the contractor for the three Route 29 Solutions design-build projects, has a toll-free telephone number, 844-220-5540. Calls with questions or comments about the Route 29 widening, Rio Road grade-separated intersection and Berkmar Drive extension projects will be returned within one business day.

- Those with questions about other Route 29 Solutions projects should call 434-529-6314 or email Route29Solutions@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

- All other VDOT-related questions or comments should be directed to 800-367-7623 (800-FOR-ROAD). VDOT’s Customer Service Center is staffed 24/7/365 and the contact will be directed to the appropriate field staff.

Keep up with Route 29 news

Traffic alerts for the Route 29 Solutions projects are available on the project website under News & Traffic Alerts. Sign up for alerts to be delivered to your e-mail on the Project Newsletter page.