Rio Intersection Construction Update

This special edition of the Route 29 Solutions e-mail newsletter includes everything you need to know about the May 23 through Sept. 2 restricted period at Route 29 and Rio Road for the grade-separated intersection construction.

Don't Blink: Construction Moving Quickly at Rio Grade-Separated Intersection Project

Work began May 23 to build a bridge to carry Rio Road traffic over Route 29 and construct an underpass for Route 29 through traffic. Adhering to an aggressive schedule, the contractor will finish no later than Sept. 2. During these 103 days, traffic movements at the intersection are restricted. (See Traffic Impact story below.) Crews worked around the clock in the median area to remove 30 inches of asphalt and 60,000 cubic yards of dirt while simultaneously setting 47 concrete beams for the bridge deck. As the earth was removed supportive beams called lagging were placed between the steel pilings.

With the excavation complete, gravel is being spread and compacted to serve as the base layer for the paved through lanes. The concrete retaining walls north and south of the intersection are being poured, with nearly one-third of the sections poured as of this writing. The final section of the bridge deck was poured the night of June 20, and work continues to install the traffic signal poles and pedestrian crossing hardware.

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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 in the Charlottesville /
Looking north from the Rio Road bridge, a construction crew works on a concrete form at far right. A finished panel on the retaining wall is to the left.

From the Rio Road bridge looking south toward Charlottesville, the excavation is complete and construction of the retaining walls is well under way. The yellow rectangles are the forms that hold the concrete while the wall panel is formed. A completed panel is at the left; more panels can be seen to the left and right at the far end of the excavation.

Project Work Activities

Recently Completed

- Earth excavation: 60,000 cubic yards removed for use on Berkmar Drive Extended project
- 47 bridge beams placed
- 5 sections of concrete bridge deck poured
- Storm water drainage system for through lanes
- Overhead directional signs
Underneath the Rio Road bridge a crew installs the steel rods to reinforce the concrete retaining walls.

During the past two weeks the Rio Road bridge deck has been poured in three sections. The crew rakes and levels the concrete, then a machine smooths the concrete that forms the travel surface for the bridge.

**Work in Process**

- Sub-base layers of gravel in through (depressed) lanes of Route 29
- Retaining wall panels and parapets
- Sidewalks adjacent to intersection

**Upcoming Work**

- Complete sidewalks and curb cuts adjacent to intersection
- Continue pouring retaining walls and parapets
- Complete traffic signal installation at 29th Place intersection
- Complete installation of pedestrian signals and hardware
- Install pedestrian lighting
- Install ground-mounted directional signs

Traffic Impacts & Detours

During the 103 days when traffic is restricted on Route 29 and Rio Road, two lanes of southbound traffic and three lanes of northbound traffic are being maintained on Route 29 between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Traffic on Rio Road cannot cross Route 29, but Rio Road remains open on both sides of the intersection and all right turns are being maintained – from Rio Road onto Route 29 and from Route 29 onto Rio Road. All business entrances remain open during business hours.

The signed detour route for traffic on Route 29 southbound with a destination east of 29 is Branchlands Boulevard to Hillsdale Drive to Rio Road East. VDOT has placed portable message boards on Route 29 to remind drivers of the detour route. Drivers using that route should remember that there is a temporary three-way stop at the intersection of Branchlands Boulevard and Hillsdale Drive.

For traffic on Route 29 north headed to destinations west of 29, Berkmar Drive to Rio Road West is the signed detour route.

VDOT also reminds motorists that u-turns at Berkmar Drive (from Route 29 south to Route 29 north) are not permitted. The Albemarle County Police Department is providing extra patrols in the area of the Rio Road project to enforce traffic laws, including speed limits and the temporary traffic movements.

City Selects Hillsdale Dr. Project Contractor; Public Information Meeting on June 29
The city of Charlottesville has selected a contractor for the Hillsdale Drive Extended project. Fielder’s Choice Enterprises, of Charlottesville, is the apparent low bidder at $11.4 million.

The city will hold an informational meeting for residents from 6 to 8 p.m. on June 29 at the Senior Center, 1180 Pepsi Place. City and contractor staff will be available to provide information about the project schedule and construction sequencing. Residents may also view plans and sign up for traffic updates.

The project will build a three-lane roadway between Greenbrier Drive in Albemarle County and Hydraulic Road in the city. Construction is expected to begin in early July, with a fixed completion date of Oct. 30, 2017.

More information about the project is available on the city’s project web page, hillsdaledrive.org.

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.

Don’t get delayed

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 Project Newsletter page.