



US Route 29/Ashwood Blvd Safety Assessment

July 1, 2008

Northwestern Regional Operations and Culpeper District

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Agenda

- **Overview**
- **Findings**
- **Recommendations**
- **Implementation Plan**



Route 29

Ashwood Blvd.

Albemarle

Overview

Why this assessment?

- VDOT reviews all roads after every fatal crash to see if we can make them safer

Does VDOT look at crashes before they occur?

- Annual Top 10 Safety List
- STARS Program (Affordable Roadway Solutions)
 - Currently Routes 53 and 20 under study

How do we improve traffic safety?

- 3E's (Engineering, Enforcement, Education)
- Highway Safety Campaign

Findings/Assessment

Traffic Volume

- US Route 29 near Ashwood Blvd is 51,000 veh/day
- AM Peak: 3,150 per hour enter intersection
- PM Peak: 3,945 per hour enter intersection

Signal Head Visibility

- Meets standard (1000 ft vs. 625 ft reqd)

Stopping Sight Distance

- Meets standard on US 29 Northbound and Ashwood Blvd
- 20 ft less than standard on US 29 Southbound
- Meets standard during typical backups

Northbound approach



Southbound approach



Findings/Assessment (cont.)

Operational Analysis

- AM Peak: Level of Service B, minimal delays
- PM Peak: Level of Service E, at capacity

Speed Limit

- 55 mph from Polo Grounds to Airport/Proffit

Existing Signs on Route 29

- SIGNAL AHEAD
- WATCH for STOPPED TRAFFIC/YELLOW BEACONS
- SCHOOL BUS STOP AHEAD



Findings/Assessment (cont.)

Crash Data (2003 to 2007)

- Crashes: 102
- Injury crashes: 32 (47 persons injured)
- Fatal crashes: 0* * Does not include May 2008 fatal crash

Safety Rankings

- 3rd highest intersection for injury/fatal crashes in Albemarle County (2004-2006)

Crash Types

- 67% Rear-end type (69)
- 13% Angle (T-Bone) (13)

Recommendations

1. Install SIGNAL AHEAD and Rumble Strips on Pavement

- Get motorist attention

2. Install controller actuated beacons (CAB)

- Flashing yellow light on SIGNAL AHEAD sign tied to signal controller
- Warns of stopped vehicles

3. Reduce speed limit to 45 mph

- US Route 29 from Polo Grounds to Airport/Proffit
- Install pullouts for law enforcement to safely pullover

Recommendations (cont.)

4. Relocate FOREST LAKES – South Ent. Sign and relocate STOP bar

- Improve sight distance

5. Trim vegetation

- Improve sign visibility and overall sight lines

6. Install SIGNAL AHEAD on Ashwood Blvd.

- Advance warning of signal

7. Modify Yellow and ALL RED times

- Add 0.5 sec yellow on Route 29 (prop. 5.5 sec)
- Add 0.4 sec ALL RED on Ashwood Blvd. (prop. 3 sec)

8. Coordinate signals from Polo Grounds to Airport/Proffit Rd



Implementation Plan

Improvement	Responsible Party	Estimated completion time
1. Install “SIGNAL AHEAD” markings and rumble strips on pavement	VDOT NWRO Traffic Engineering design/Asset Maintenance install	Summer 2008
2. Install Controller Actuated Beacon (CAB)	VDOT NWRO	Winter 2008
3a. Speed Limit Reduction	VDOT NWRO Traffic Engineering seeks approval, Asset Maintenance installs	Late Summer 2008
3b. Safety Pullouts	VDOT Charlottesville Residency	Fall 2008
4a. Relocate Forest Lakes sign	Forest Lakes Owners Assoc.	To be determined
4b. Relocated STOP bar	VDOT NWRO Asset Maintenance	Summer 2008

Implementation Plan (cont.)

Improvement	Responsible Party	Estimated completion time
5. Trim Vegetation	VDOT Charlottesville Residency	Brush removal – Summer 2008 Tree canopy removal - Spring 2009
6. Install “SIGNAL AHEAD” sign	VDOT NWRO Traffic Engineering design/Asset Maintenance install	Summer 2008
7. Adjust yellow and red intervals	VDOT NWRO Signal Maintenance	July 2008
8. Signal Coordination	VDOT NWRO Traffic Operations	Fall 2008

Questions

Copies of Safety Assessment available July 2 on
VDOT website

- www.vdot.virginia.gov