



NEWS RELEASE

VirginiaDOT.org

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
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ROUTE 229 IMPROVEMENTS SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING *VDOT to present plans for roundabout, roadway widening on Tuesday evening*

CULPEPER — The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing on its plan for improvements to the intersection of Route 15/29 Business and Route 229 (Rixeyville Road) in the town of Culpeper. The hearing will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29 at Floyd T. Binns Middle School, 205 Grandview Ave., in Culpeper.

The proposed project will replace the traffic signals at the intersection with a two-lane roundabout. A traffic analysis to compare a signalized intersection with a roundabout was done as part of the design process. That analysis found that the roundabout provided more efficient traffic flow and greater safety than an intersection controlled by signals.

The project will improve Route 229 from the Route 15/29 intersection to north of Fairview Avenue. Route 229 will be widened from its current two lanes to four lanes. Sidewalks will be built on the west side of Route 229 and a 10-foot-wide shared use path will be built on the east side of Route 229 and north of Route 15/29. The roundabout will be built to accommodate a future connection with the planned Inner Loop road. The improvement of Route 229 is one segment of the long-range plan to widen the road to four lanes from Route 15/29 Business to north of the Ira Hoffman Drive intersection.

The project is estimated to cost \$7.6 million, including engineering, right of way acquisition and utility relocation, and construction. The current schedule calls for right of way and utility work to begin this winter, advertisement for construction bids in the winter of 2012 and work to begin in the spring of 2013.

The project will require additional right of way and plans will be available at the public hearing to show the limits of the project as proposed. VDOT engineering and right of way staff will be available at the hearing to explain the project and answer questions. Plans for the project may also be reviewed at VDOT's Culpeper District office, 1601 Orange Road, in Culpeper.

Written and oral comments will be accepted at the public hearing. Written comments submitted through July 9 will also be considered and made part of the official record of the hearing. After the hearing written comments should be sent to:

Mr. James S. Utterback, PMP
Culpeper District Administrator
1601 Orange Road
Culpeper, VA 22701

Comments may also be emailed to James.Utterback@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please include "Route 229 PH Comment" in the subject line.

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