



NEWS RELEASE

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SPEED LIMIT REDUCED ON U.S. 29 NORTH OF CHARLOTTESVILLE 45-mph limit effective today from Polo Grounds Road to Airport/Proffit Road

CULPEPER – The speed limit on U.S. 29 north of Charlottesville has been reduced to 45 miles per hour. The speed limit reduction was approved Wednesday, July 2 by Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner David S. Ekern, and is effective with the installation of signs posting the new speed limit today.

The speed limit was reduced from 55 miles per hour on the two-mile stretch of U.S. 29 between Polo Grounds Road and Airport/Proffit Road after a speed study done by the Virginia Department of Transportation. The study found that the roadway geometry, increased development and crash history along the corridor warranted the reduction.

The speed study was done in conjunction with a safety assessment of the U.S. 29/Ashwood Boulevard intersection following a fatal crash in early May. The eight recommendations from that safety assessment included the speed limit reduction as well as additional signs, pavement markings and flashing lights to warn motorists approaching the Ashwood Boulevard intersection. Brush and some trees along the road shoulders and median strip will also be cleared to improve visibility.

“We appreciate VDOT’s quick response to the community meeting and we are pleased to see this action that will allow us to begin to address some of the issues along this stretch of highway,” said Ken Boyd, Chairman of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors.

“Safety is always VDOT’s first priority,” said Allan Sumpter, VDOT’s Charlottesville Residency administrator. “We believe that these measures will enhance safety and reduce crashes along the corridor.” VDOT is also cooperating with the Albemarle County Police Department and will make shoulder improvements along the corridor to allow the police to safely conduct enforcement operations and stop violators.

Highway safety is everyone's responsibility. Virginia's highway safety partnership — the Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and Virginia State Police — challenges you to help prevent highway fatalities. Buckle up. Avoid distractions. Share the road. Drive drug- and alcohol-free. Obey speed limits. For more information on the Highway Safety Challenge and things you can do to avoid becoming Virginia's next traffic fatality, visit www.safeVAhighways.org.

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