



## Route 29 Bypass and Route 29 Widening

July 20, 2011

**James Utterback**

Culpeper District Administrator

## Overview

- **Route 29 Corridor**
- **Route 29 Bypass**
- **Route 29 Widening**
- **Requested Action for the CTB**

## Route 29 Corridor

- **Major north-south corridor from Northern Virginia to central North Carolina**
  - National Highway System (NHS)
  - NHS High-Priority Corridor (Congressional designation)
  - Corridor of Statewide Significance
- **Daily traffic ranges from 15,000 to 60,000 vehicles in urban areas along the corridor**
- **Most developed areas in Virginia (Warrenton, Culpeper, Lynchburg, Danville) have bypasses to channel through traffic and reduce volume on local road network**

## Route 29 Corridor Projects

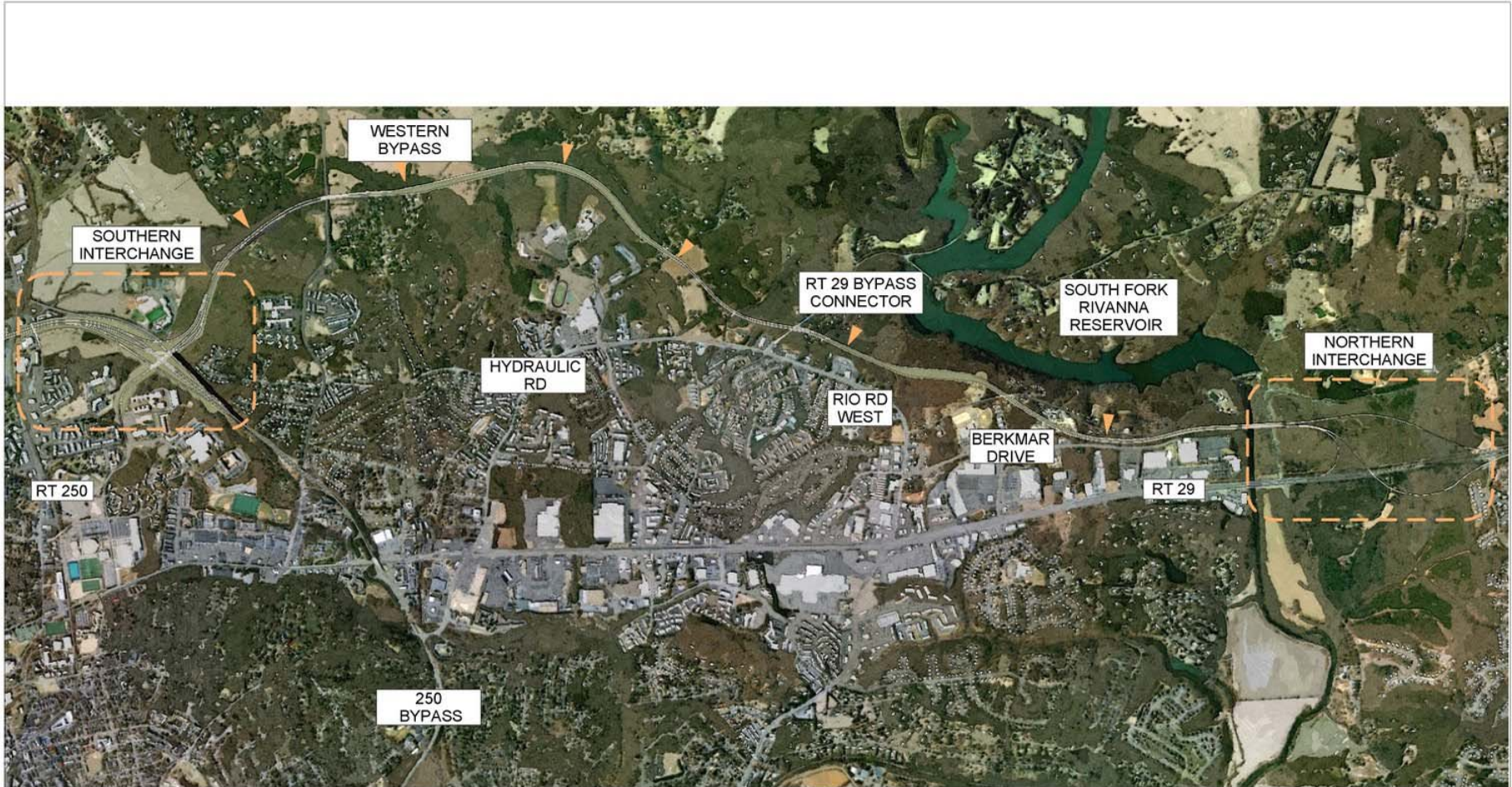
Location	Description	Cost	Status
Amherst	Bridge replacement over Tye River	\$8.9 million	Under Construction
Amherst	Bridge replacement over Buffalo River	\$6.4 million	Construction September 2012
Pittsylvania	Bridge replacement over Norfolk Southern Railroad	\$4.9 million	Construction November 2012
City of Charlottesville	Route 250 Interchange Improvements	\$4.7 million	PE Underway
Culpeper	Interchange at Route 666	\$28.6 million	PE & RW funding only
Fauquier	Opal Interchange	\$44.6 million	Under Construction
Prince William	Gainesville Interchange	\$216 million	Under Construction

## Route 29 Bypass

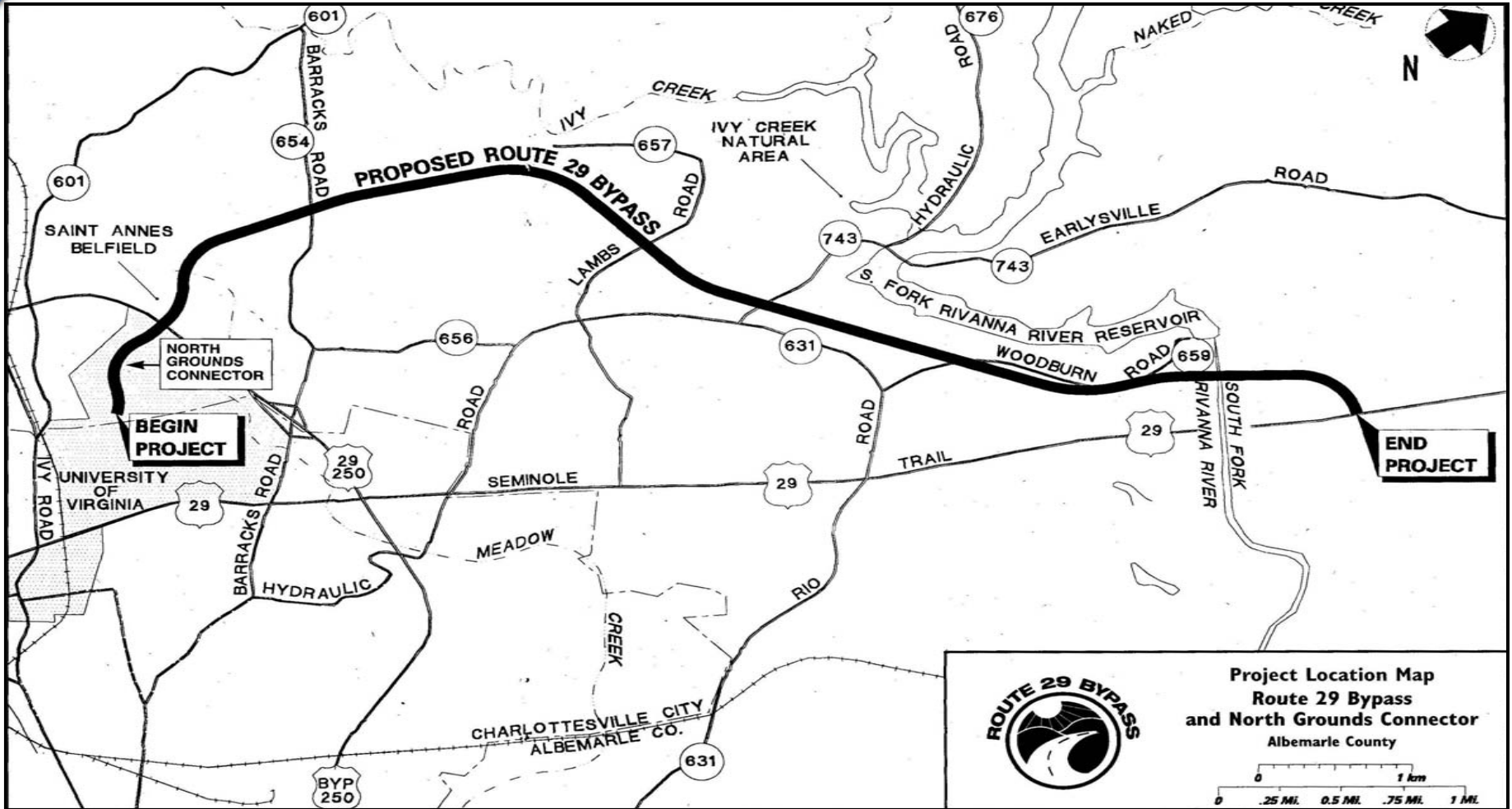
- **Project location originally developed in late 1980s and location adopted by CTB in 1990**
- **6.2 mile, 4-lane limited-access roadway from Route 29 north of the South Fork Rivanna River to the Route 29/250 Bypass**
- **In 1997 traffic forecast was 24,400 vehicles per day would use the Bypass in year 2022**
- **Bypasses 14 signals on Route 29 corridor**
- **Provides an alternate northern route to the UVA campus via the North Grounds Connector**



# Route 29 Bypass Approved Location



# Route 29 Bypass Approved Location





# Project History

## Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Actions

- **1987: consultant selected to conduct location studies, traffic studies and prepare Environmental Impact Statement**
- **1990: approved the Alternative 10 Bypass route and development of a North Grounds connection for UVA. Adopted a Base Case of improvements/phasing to include:**
  - 1. construction of 3 grade separated interchanges on Route 29 at Hydraulic, Greenbrier, and Rio Roads**
  - 2. reservation of right of way for the Bypass**
  - 3. construction of the Bypass**



# Project History

## Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Actions

- **1991: reaffirmed selected alternative and the phasing of improvements (ROW, interchanges on rte. 29, and bypass construction)**
- **1992: approved the design of the Base Case improvements**
- **1995: rescinded 1990 & 1991 resolutions. This eliminated the requirement to build the interchanges on route 29 before the bypass was constructed**
- **1997: approved Bypass design features**

# Project History

## Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Actions

- **1996: resolution adopted to not support including construction funds for the Route 29 Bypass in the TIP**
- **1997: adopted the TIP without CN funds for the Bypass**
- **Currently Bypass in the TIP and Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) for PE and RW**
- **July 2011: public involvement process for rescinding 1996 resolution and amending the TIP and CLRP to allow Bypass construction**

## Project History Legal Challenges

- **Lawsuit filed in 1998 claiming violations of NEPA**
- **Courts ruled in VDOT's favor but required completion of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address impacts at the northern terminus of the project**
- **Final EIS approved by FHWA in May 2003**
- **Record of Decision (ROD) issued by FHWA in September 2003**
- **Required environmental assessment under NEPA complete for current location and design**
- **MPO position and lack of funding and have kept the Bypass from moving to construction**

# Route 29 Bypass Financial Status

	<b>Initial Allocation</b>	<b>Proposed Changes</b>	<b>Total Allocation</b>
<b>PE</b>	<b>\$13,434,610</b>	<b>\$7,403,135</b>	<b>\$20,837,745</b>
<b>RW</b>	<b>\$33,732,149</b>	<b>\$71,748,889</b>	<b>\$105,481,038</b>
<b>CN</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$118,275,045</b>	<b>\$118,275,045</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,166,759</b>	<b>\$197,427,069</b>	<b>\$244,593,828</b>

# Route 29 Bypass Potential Financial Liability

- **Federal Code (Title 23, CFR 630.112)**
  - Requires construction be underway by close of 20<sup>th</sup> year following ROW authorization. Virginia to repay any federal funds used for the incomplete project
  - The 20-year time limit would be reached in 2012 for advance acquisition (regulation allows a time extension if requested)
- **Virginia Code ( § 33.1-90)**
  - Requires right of way to be sold after 20 years of inactivity to original owner at original purchase price
  - If FHWA requires reimbursement, the CTB must deduct those funds from the Culpeper District's primary system allocation ( § 33.1-223.2:13)
- **Potential payback**
  - Approximately \$46.8 million less proceeds from sale of ROW of \$19 million



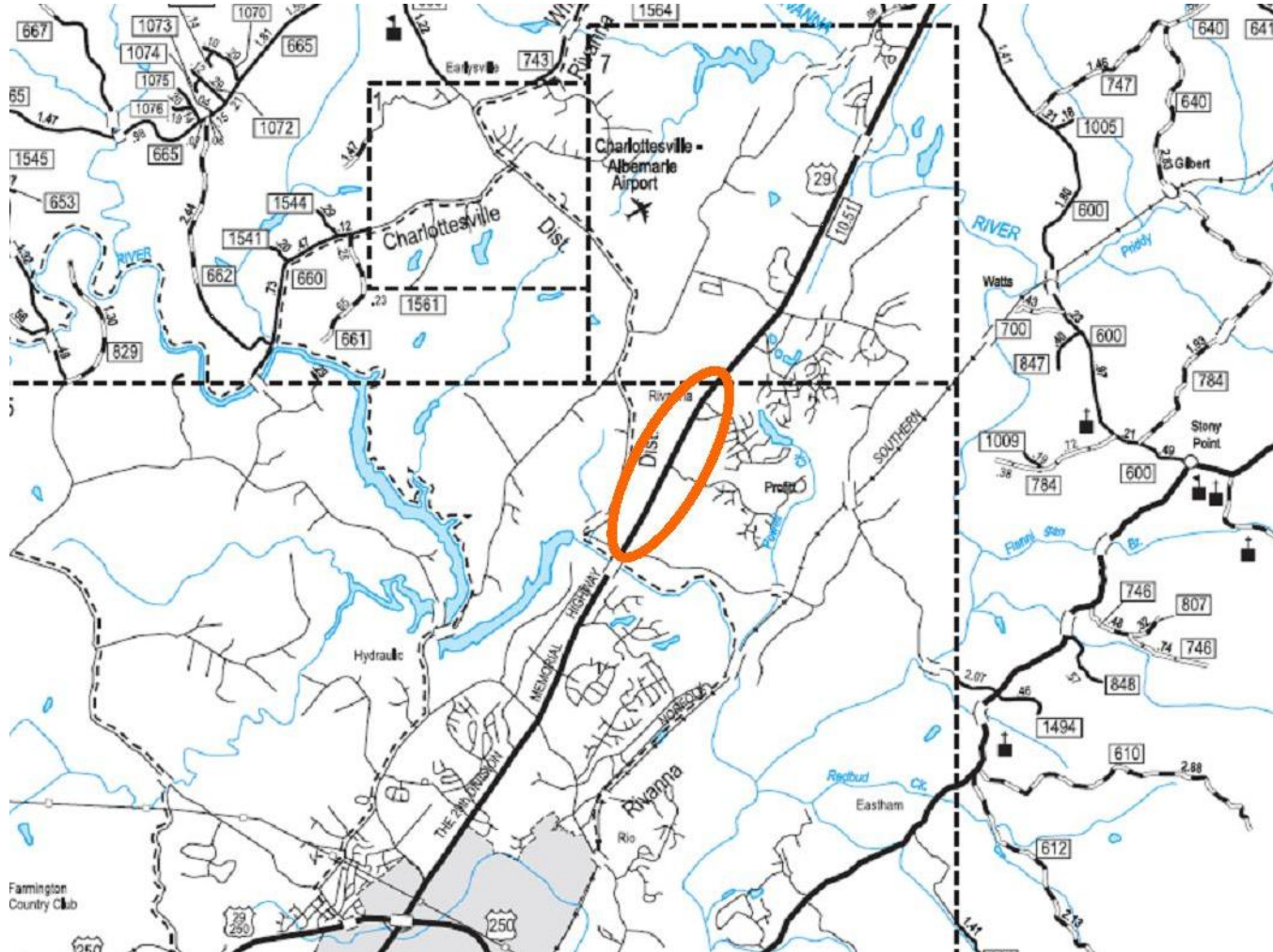
## Route 29 Bypass Status

- **Environmental**
  - Required assessments under NEPA are complete
  - Record of Decision 2003 (needs reevaluation)
- **Design**
  - Work stopped in 1998
  - Interchange design at northern terminus incomplete
  - Survey/design in metric measure; must be updated
- **Right of Way**
  - 83 of 122 parcels (68%) have been purchased
  - VDOT manages 36 rental properties within Bypass
- **North Ground Connector completed**
  - Built by UVa with connection to Route 250 Bypass

## Route 29 Widening History

- **MPO and Albemarle County identified the widening of Route 29 between Polo Grounds Road and Hollymeade Towncenter as a priority in the Places 29 Study**
- **Project authorized for preliminary engineering in FY2008**
- **Funding removed from SYIP in FY2010 update**
- **No Preliminary Engineering accomplished to date**

# Route 29 Widening Location



## Route 29 Widening Financial Status

PHASE	ESTIMATE
PE	\$2,632,814
RW	\$8,000,000
CN	\$21,940,117
TOTAL	\$32,572,931

## Requested Action for CTB

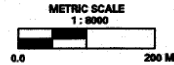
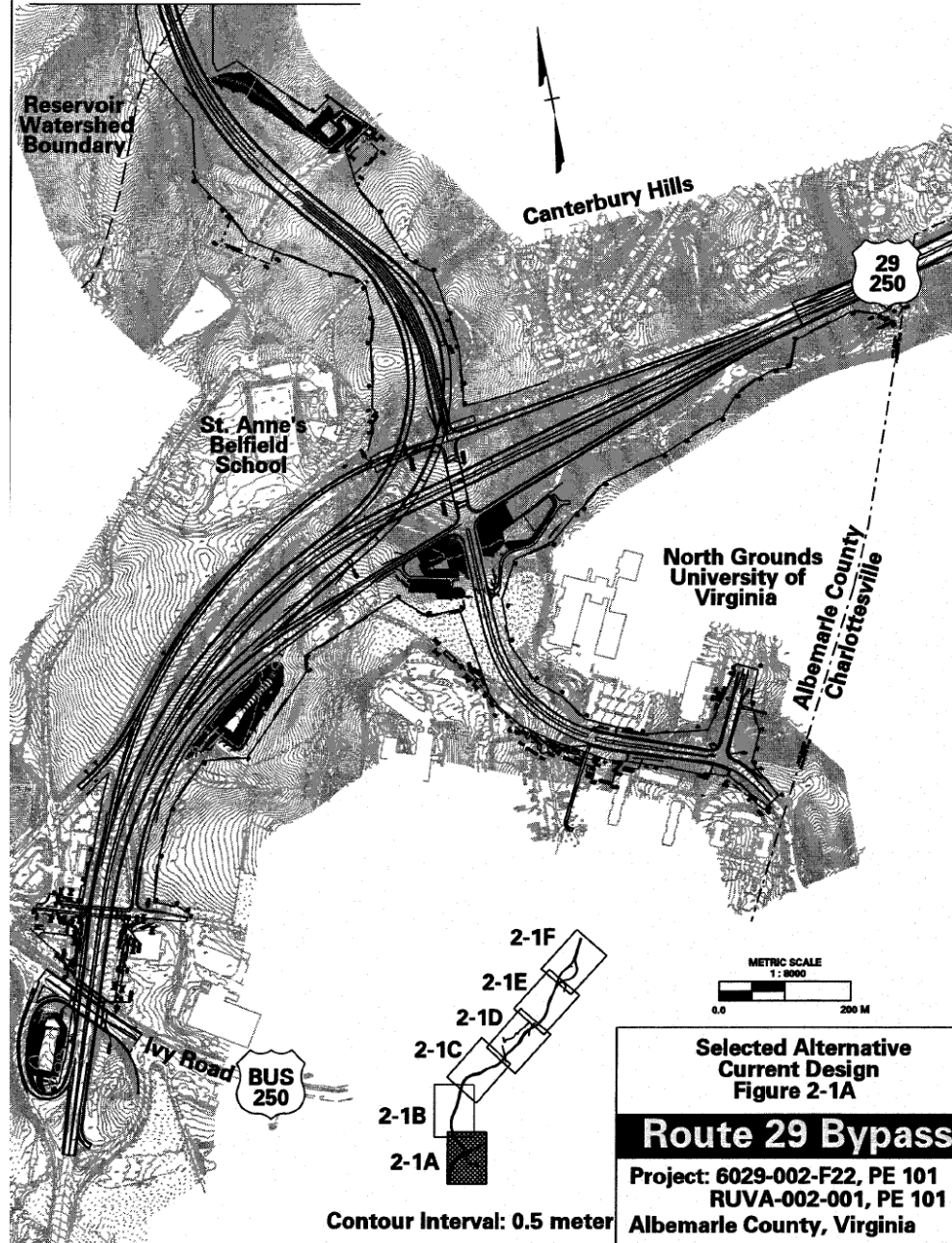
- **Add the Route 29 Widening (UPC 77383) to the SYIP and transfer allocations in the amount of \$32,572,931 to the project**
- **Transfer allocations in the amount of \$197,427,069 to the Route 29 Bypass (UPC 16160) project**



# Questions

# Backup Slides (Design Exhibits)

MATCH FIGURE 2-1B



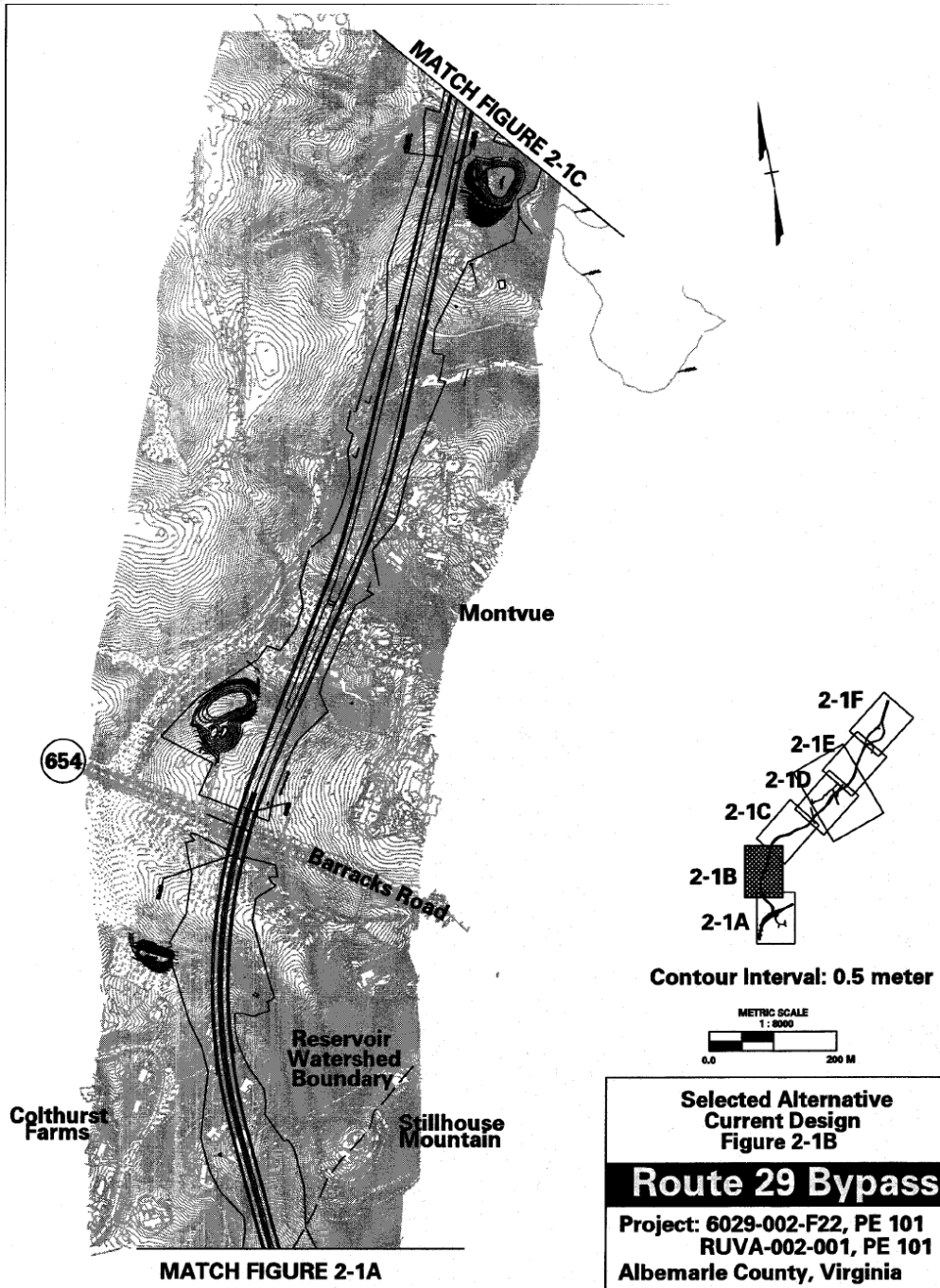
Selected Alternative  
**Current Design**  
 Figure 2-1A

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**Route 29 Bypass**

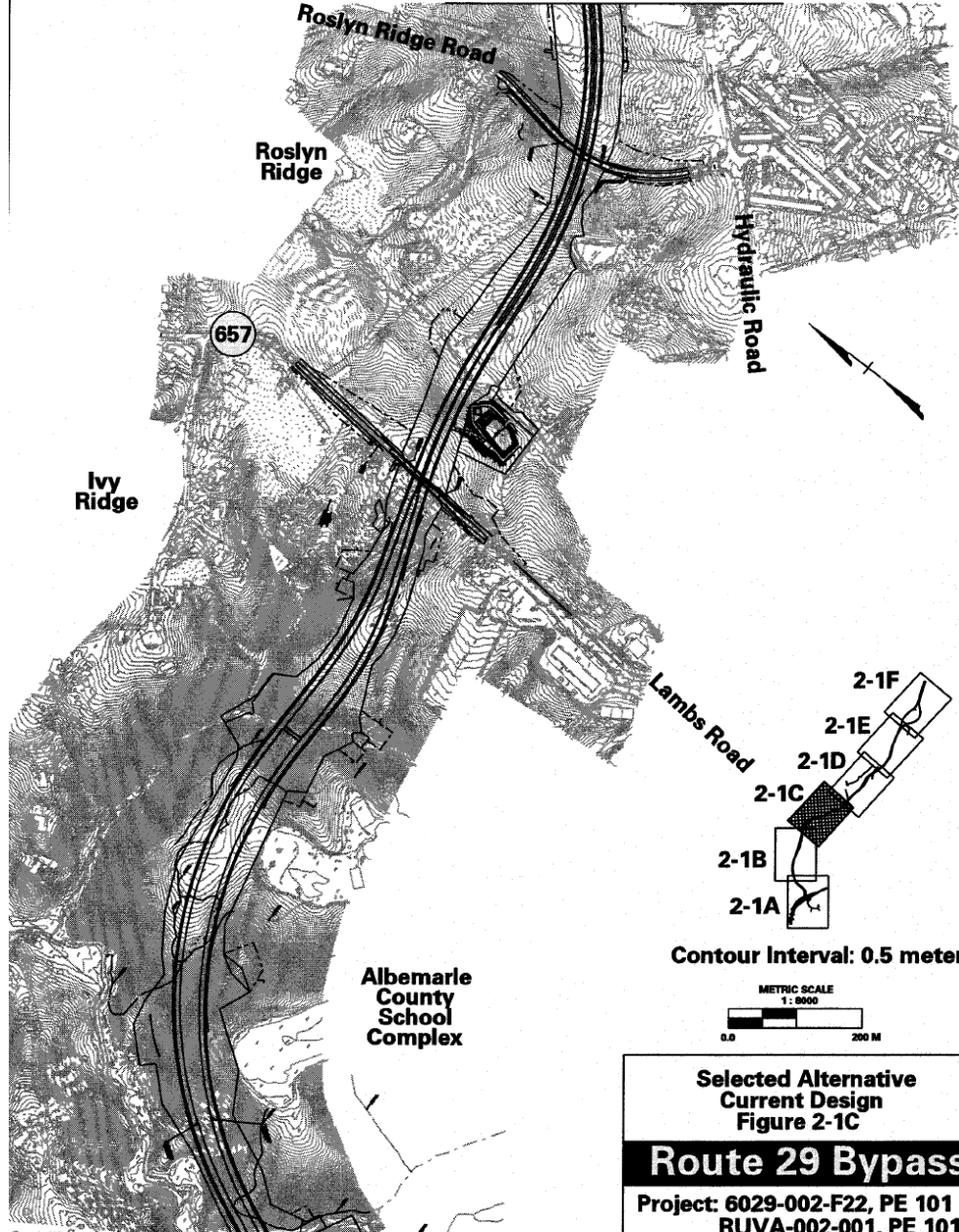
Project: 6029-002-F22, PE 101  
 RUVA-002-001, PE 101  
 Albemarle County, Virginia

Contour Interval: 0.5 meter





MATCH FIGURE 2-1D



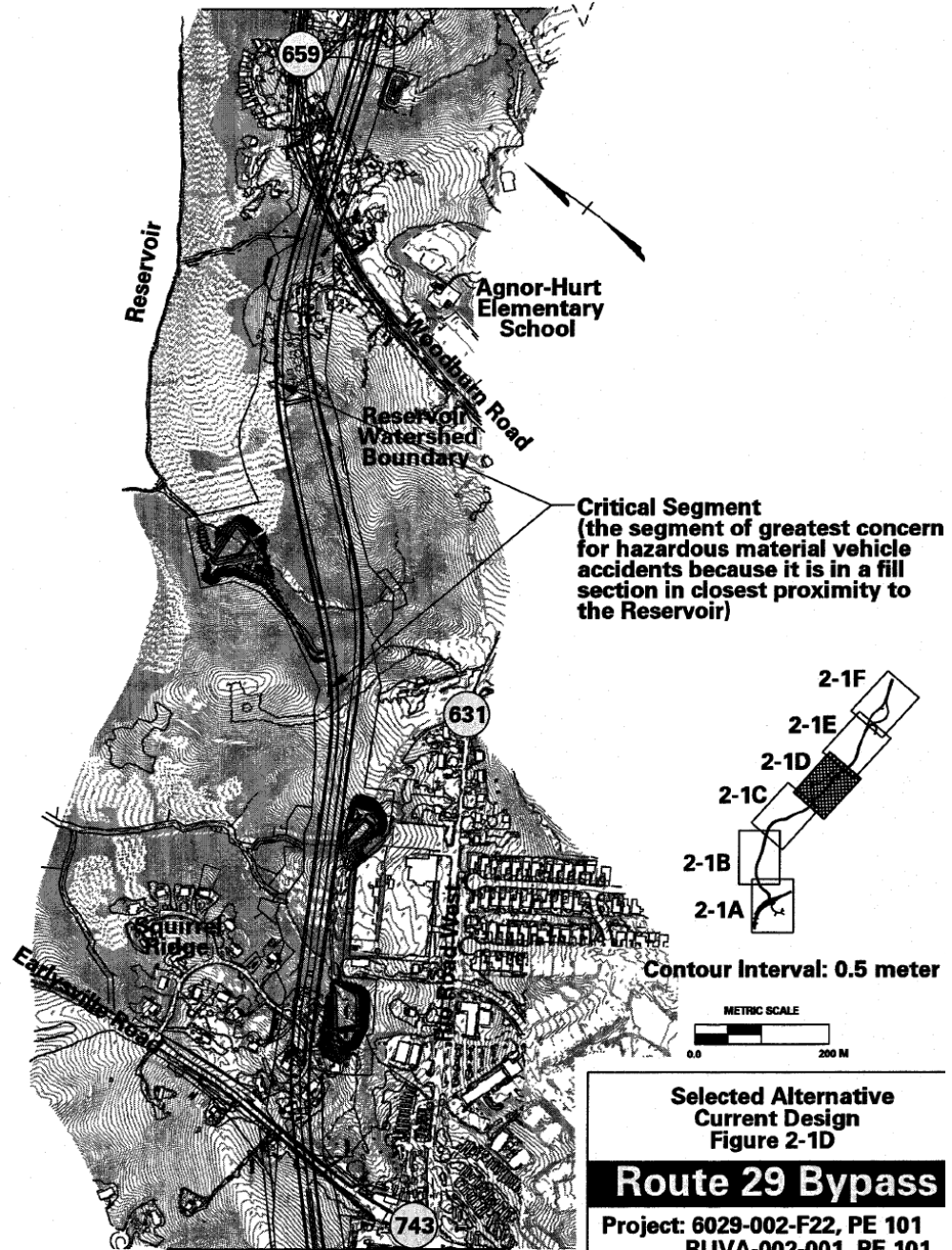
MATCH FIGURE 2-1B

**Selected Alternative  
Current Design  
Figure 2-1C**

**Route 29 Bypass**

Project: 6029-002-F22, PE 101  
RUVA-002-001, PE 101  
Albemarle County, Virginia



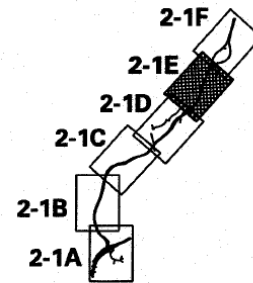
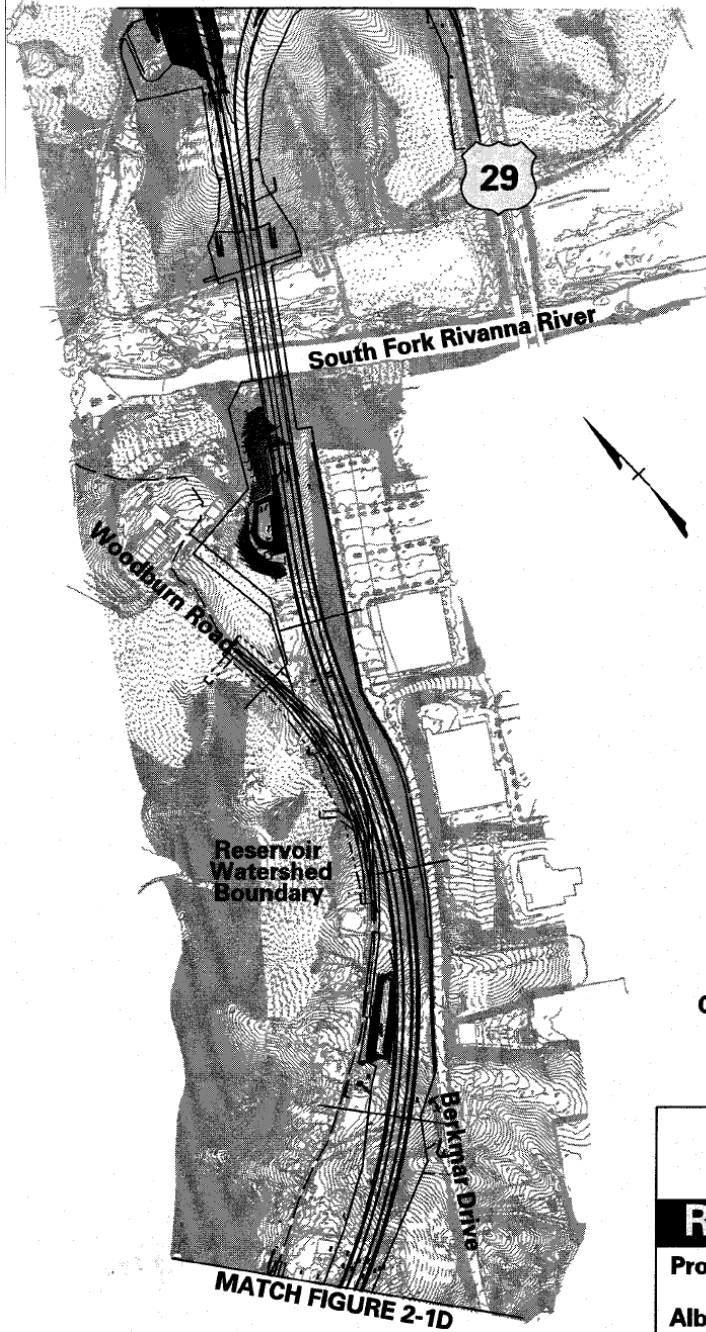


**Selected Alternative  
Current Design  
Figure 2-1D**

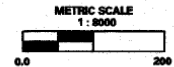
**Route 29 Bypass**

**Project: 6029-002-F22, PE 101  
RUVA-002-001, PE 101  
Albemarle County, Virginia**

MATCH FIGURE 2-1F



Contour Interval: 0.5 meter



**Selected Alternative  
Current Design  
Figure 2-1E**

## **Route 29 Bypass**

**Project: 6029-002-F22, PE 101  
RUVA-002-001, PE 101  
Albemarle County, Virginia**

MATCH FIGURE 2-1D



