



A Review of the Rt. 29 Solutions Process

Considering, Selecting, Endorsing, Funding and Constructing the Rt. 29 Solutions Projects

February 17, 2015

Philip Shucet



Route 29 Solutions

Context for Rt. 29 in Virginia



Route 29 Solutions

Rt. 29 in Virginia

- **Rt. 29 is functionally classified as an Urban Principal Arterial**
- **Urban Principal Arterials in Virginia**
 - **Serve major centers of activity of metropolitan areas**
 - **Are the highest traffic volume corridors**
 - **Carry a high proportion of total urban travel on a minimum of mileage**
 - **Carry significant amounts of intra-area travel**



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Context for Rio Road in Albemarle County



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Rio Road in Albemarle County

Rio Road is functionally classified as an Urban Minor Arterial

Urban Minor Arterials in Virginia:

- Interconnect with and augment the urban principal arterial system and provide service trips of moderate length at a lower level of travel mobility than principal arterials
- Include all arterials not classified as a principal and contains facilities that place more emphasis on land access, and offer a lower level of traffic mobility.



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Considering a Rt. 29 Solution



Route 29 Solutions

Broad Charge from Secretary Layne in February 2014:

- **Serve as a facilitator and advisor to determine if there are reasonable, cost-effective solutions to improve mobility in the Rt. 29 Charlottesville - Albemarle County corridor.**
- **No preconceptions.**
- **Solutions must be built or substantially underway in 4 years.**
- **Work with an Advisory Panel, VDOT and DRPT.**
- **Be transparent.**
- **Work within budget of funds already dedicated to Rt. 29 corridor in Charlottesville - Albemarle County: approximately \$200 million**
- **Bring recommendation to CTB no later than May 14, 2014.**



Route 29 Solutions

Plan of Action reviewed with CTB on March 19, 2014:

- **Assemble a 10-member Advisory Panel**
- **Convene three Advisory Panel meetings (later *added a 4th panel meeting*)**
- **Engage technical expertise for evaluation and analysis**



Route 29 Solutions

The First Rt. 29 Advisory Panel

Elected Officials

- Albemarle County
- Charlottesville
- Culpeper
- Danville
- Lynchburg
- Warrenton

Organizations

- Charlottesville Chamber
- Charlottesville MPO
- Lynchburg Chamber
- Southern Environmental Law Center



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Schedule of Meetings for First Rt. 29 Advisory Panel

1. March 27, 2014
2. April 10, 2014:
3. April 24, 2014
4. May 8, 2014

All meetings were open to the public; live streamed over route29solutions.org; and available for video replay.



Route 29 Solutions

March 27, 2014 Panel Meeting

Secretary Layne reviewed the January 15, 1998 Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's report with the Rt. 29 Solutions Panel which outlined a 35 year-long history of studying the Rt. 29 corridor.

Secretary Layne gave a specific charge to the panel to: *“...start addressing mobility through the corridor, which is very important, and congestion in the corridor, which is also very important.”*



Route 29 Solutions

March 27, 2014 Panel Meeting

The panel developed 25 key success factors

The panel developed 16 potential solution concepts

April 10, 2014 Meeting

Consolidated success factors to 8

Consolidated potential solutions to 4 roadway options and 1 rail option

- 2 Throughway and 2 Parallel Road options
- Each roadway project provided independent utility between logical termini
- Rail option focused on additional train service between Lynchburg and DC



Route 29 Solutions

April 24, 2014 Panel Meeting

Panel took more detailed look at Throughway and Parallel Road options

Throughway options

- **Low build throughway: convert 2 inside lanes to through lanes; convert all intersections to right-in / right-out except Hydraulic, Greenbrier, Branchlands, Rio, Hilton Heights, and Airport)**
- **High build throughway: construct 4-lane expressway in median to physically separate local and through traffic; 2 at-grade local lanes in each direction; build 4 major interchanges (Hydraulic, Rio, Hilton Heights, Airport)**



Route 29 Solutions

April 24, 2014 Panel Meeting

More detailed look at Throughway and Parallel Road options

Parallel Road Options

- **Low build parallel roads:** Construct existing six-year program projects (Hillsdale Extension, Best Buy, Rt. 29 Widening, Adaptive Signals); construct Berkmar Extension; apply access management to study and eliminate left turns on Rt. 29.
- **High build parallel roads:** Everything in low build plus reconstruct Rt. 250/29 interchange, construct full interchanges at Hydraulic, Rio, Airport; overpasses at Greenbrier, Hilton Heights, Ashwood, Timberwood.



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Selecting, Endorsing and Funding The Rt. 29 Solutions Projects



Route 29 Solutions

May 8, 2014 Panel Meeting

Recommendation presented to Advisory Panel

A throughway (expressway) option was not recommended

A modified parallel roads option was recommended

- **Construct Parallel Roads low build projects**
- **Construct a Rio grade-separated intersection without limiting local access**
- **Conduct preliminary engineering for a Hydraulic Rd GSI (Hillsdale South later included)**
- **Fund second Lynchburg to DC train**



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Recommendation was not required to be and was not unanimously endorsed by the Advisory Panel

Danville, Lynchburg and Lynchburg Chamber member:

- Preferred Rt 29 throughway options
- Preferred Berkmar project be shortened and funds shifted to future construction of a Hydraulic Rd GSI

Charlottesville Regional Chamber member:

- Did not support the Rio GSI or any other GSI on Rt 29
- Did support the remaining projects



Route 29 Solutions

The Rt. 29 Solutions Projects:

1. Construct the Rt 250 / 29 interchange improvement (Best Buy ramp)
2. Construct the Rt 29 Widening from Polo Grounds to Towncenter Drive
3. Construct the Berkmar Extension
4. Construct the Hillsdale Extension
5. Construct the Rio Rd / Rt 29 grade-separated intersection (Rio GSI)
6. Implement the Adaptive Signal System
7. Construct Hillsdale South (later added to Hydraulic PE)
8. Preliminary engineering for a Hydraulic Rd / Rt. 29 GSI (PE only)
9. Implement a 2nd train for the Lynchburg - DC Amtrak line



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May 13, 2014: Recommendation reviewed with CTB

May 2014: Recommendation was:

- **Endorsed by Charlottesville City Council**
- **Endorsed by Albemarle Board of Supervisors**
- **Included in MPO's Constrained Long Range Plan**

June 18, 2014: CTB funded the Rt. 29 Solutions projects as part of the 2,700-project, \$13.1 billion FY15 Six-Year Improvement Program.



Route 29 Solutions

Delivering the Rt. 29 Solutions Projects



Route 29 Solutions

The Rt. 29 Project Delivery Advisory Panel

Secretary formed 12-member Project Delivery Advisory Panel (PDAP)

- Mayor of Charlottesville and a staff member
- Member of Board of Supervisors and a staff member
- MPO Executive Director
- Southern Environmental Law Center representative
- Six business representatives recommended by Chamber of Commerce



Route 29 Solutions

PDAP's Charge:

To advise VDOT during the development and delivery of the Rt. 29 Solution package projects on matters regarding design, environmental permitting, construction, maintenance of traffic, and public safety.



Route 29 Solutions

PDAP process is producing material positive affects on project delivery

- **Accelerating completion of Rt 250 /29 ramp construction**
- **Combining Hillsdale South Extension into Hydraulic Rd PE study**
- **Accelerating design hearings from mid-November to October 2014**
- **Including Architectural Review Board guidelines for Rio GSI**
- **Including extended left-turn storage length at Woodbrook Road and Fashion Square Mall entrance**



Route 29 Solutions

PDAP process producing material positive affects on project delivery

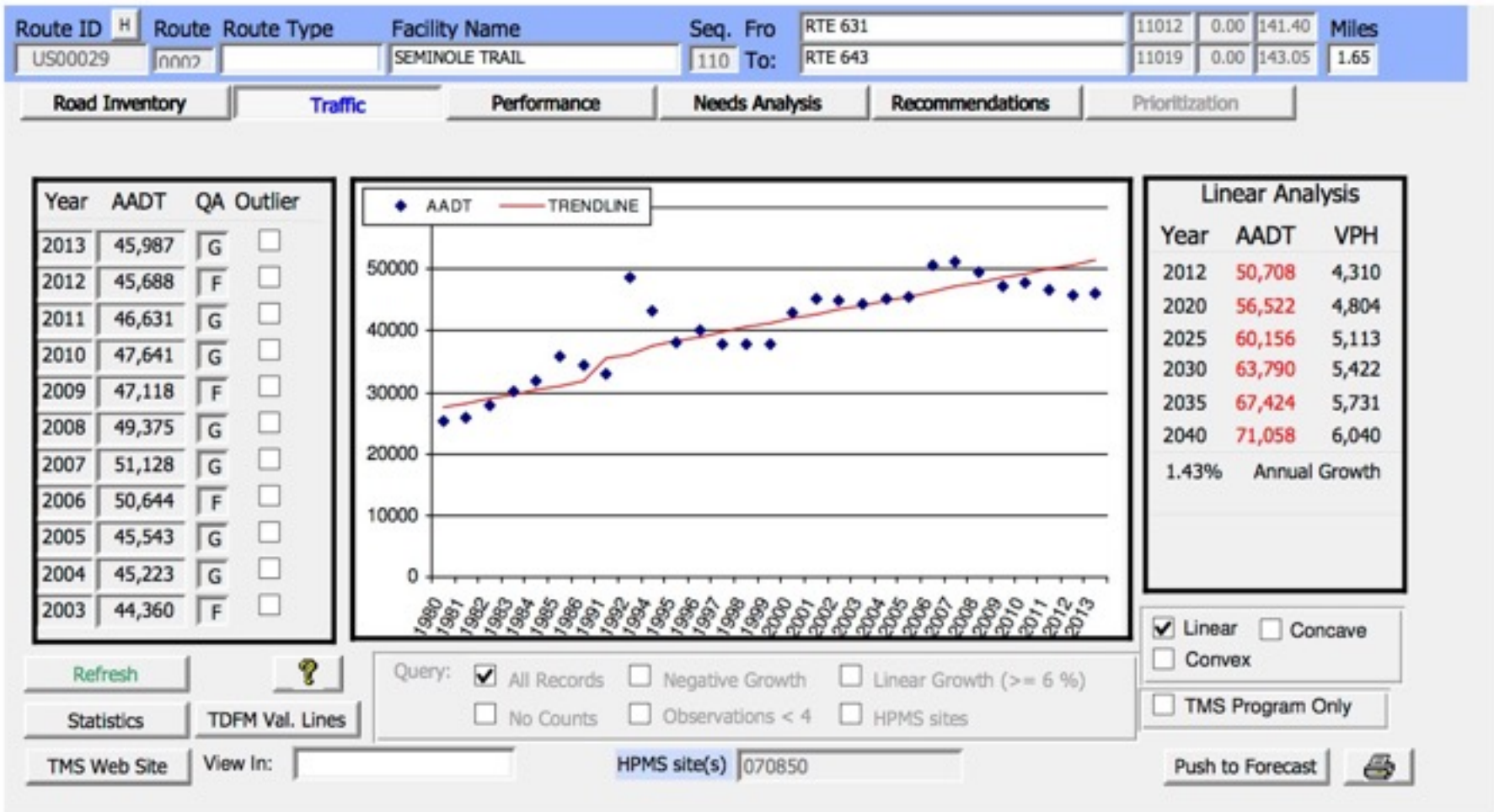
- Adding multi-use path on Route 29 Widening
- Adding interactive public comment section on the project website www.route29solutions.org
- Including architectural treatments on the Rt. 250 / 29 ramp
- Adding a crossover on Rio Road West to permit left turns out of Merchant's Tire and Hardee's during the 103-day restricted period
- Repairing existing Berkmar pavement between 29 and Rio before May 23, 2016



Route 29 Solutions

Transportation Forecasts

Historic trends from VDOT files



Neither these trends nor a linear analysis were used to develop forecasts for Rt. 29 Solutions.



Route 29 Solutions

Methodology used for Rt. 29 Solutions Projects

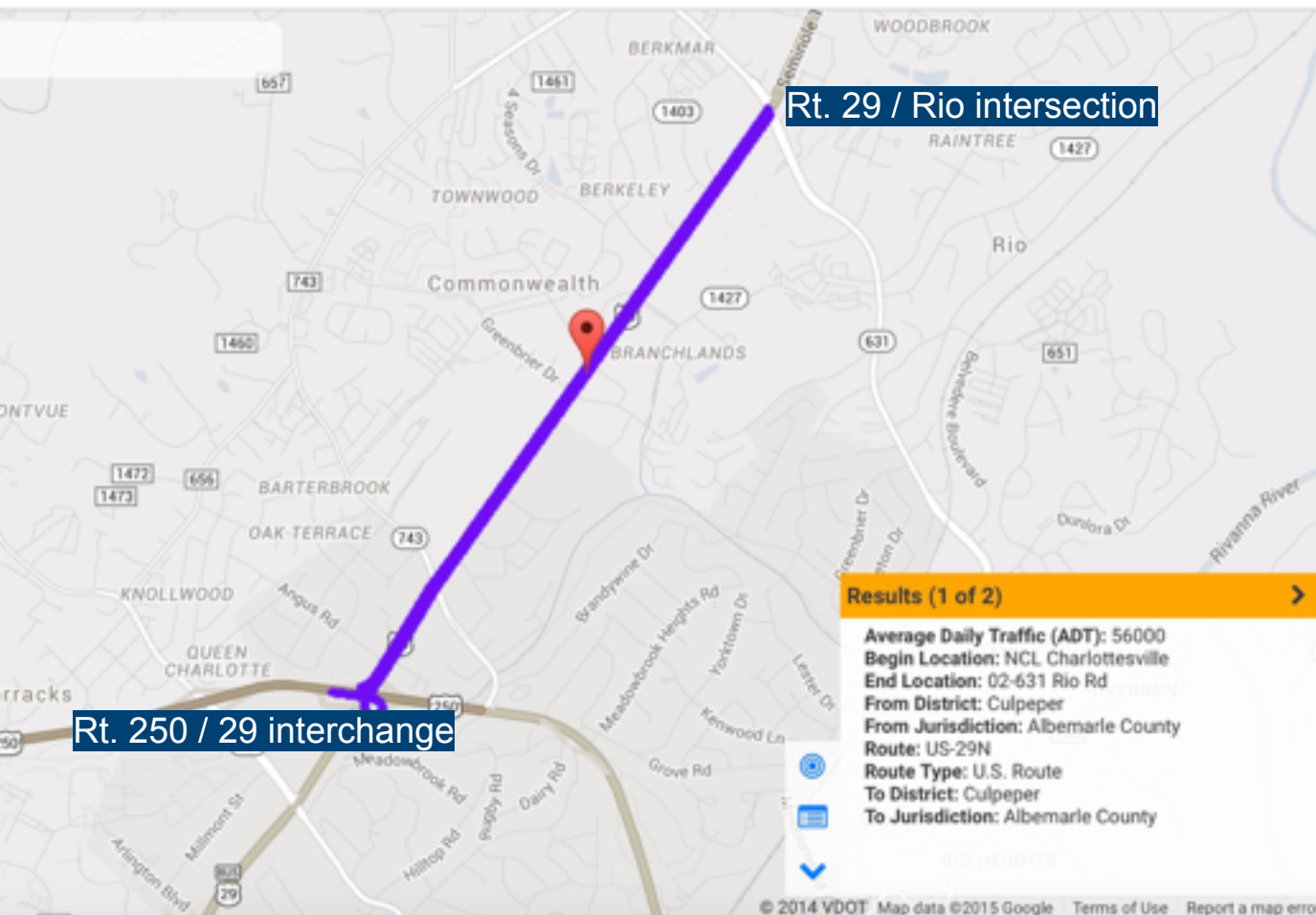
- **Future traffic forecasts were not based on historic traffic trends.**
- **VDOT did not straight-line future traffic forecasts from historic trends.**
- **VDOT did not use any traffic data from Places29.**
- **VDOT collected and used new data from 2014 summer and fall traffic counts.**
- **Population and land use characteristics in the official regional transportation demand model were used as required.**
- **Forecast projected to a design year (2040) as required.**
- **Forecast traffic growth projected to 2040 design year represents $\approx 1\%$ annual compound growth.**



Route 29 Solutions

Traffic on Rt. 29 Today

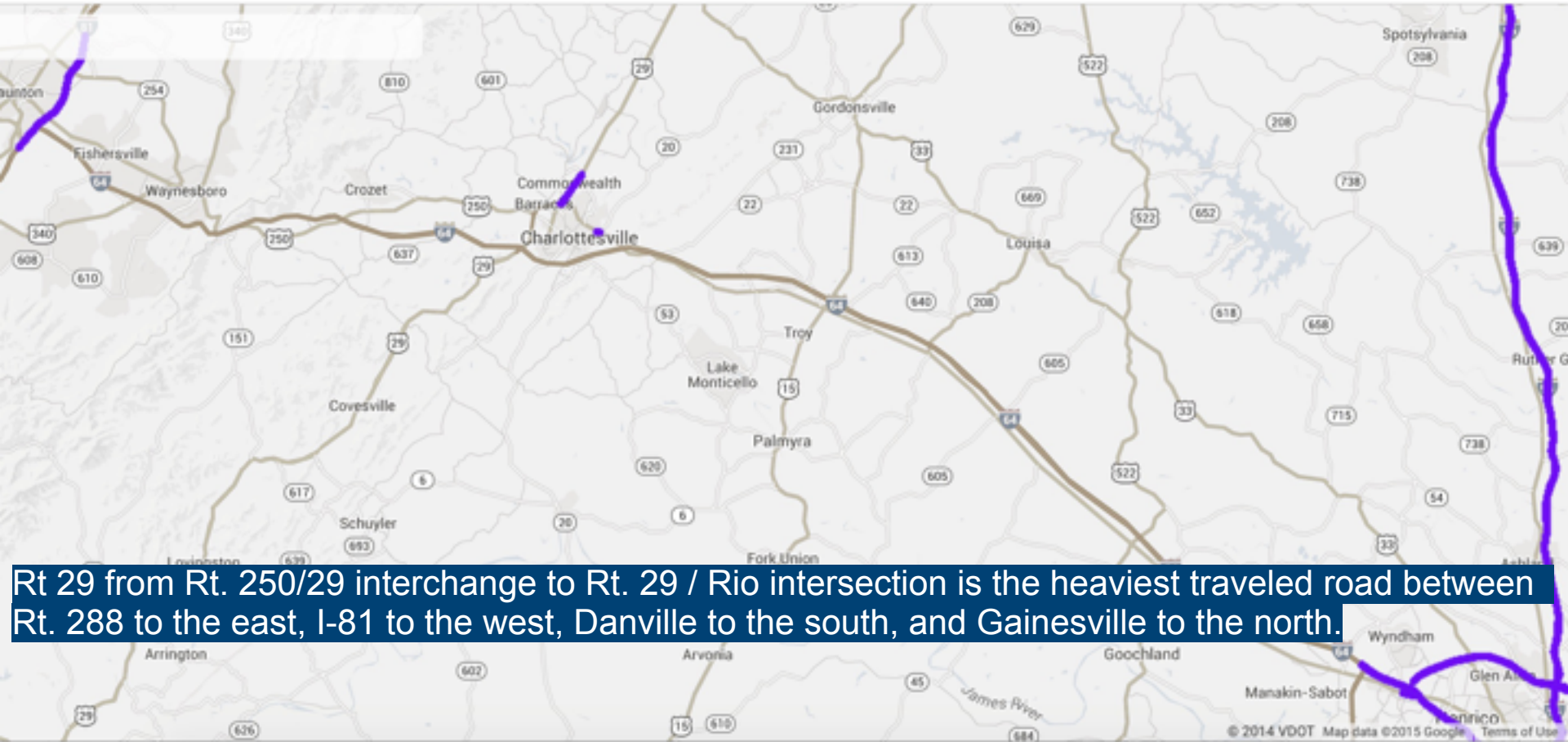
From VDOT's virginiaroads.org



Roads	Satellite
Traffic Volumes	
<input type="checkbox"/> < 50	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 50 - 149	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 - 749	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 750 - 1,499	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 1,500 - 2,999	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 3,000 - 4,999	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5,000 - 49,999	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50,000 - 175,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="button" value="All"/>	<input type="button" value="None"/>

Enable Advanced Filters

From VDOT's virginiaroads.org



Rt 29 from Rt. 250/29 interchange to Rt. 29 / Rio intersection is the heaviest traveled road between Rt. 288 to the east, I-81 to the west, Danville to the south, and Gainesville to the north.



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notices, Communications and Outreach



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Mar 14: News release: Secretary Layne to Convene Rt. 29 Advisory Panel

Mar 19: News release: Rt. 29 Panel to Provide Local Input

Mar 27: First Rt. 29 Advisory Panel meeting

Apr 10: Second Rt. 29 Advisory Panel meeting

Apr 24: Third Rt. 29 Advisory Panel meeting



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

May 8: Fourth and final Rt. 29 Advisory Panel meeting

May 13: Morning news release: Rt. 29 Improvements to be Presented to CTB in Charlottesville

May 13 - 14: CTB meets publicly at DoubleTree Charlottesville

May 13: Afternoon news release: Rt. 29 Solutions Package Presented to CTB

Jun 18: Governor McAuliffe addresses CTB regarding SYIP and Rt. 29 Solutions

Jun 18: News release: Governor announces Rt. 29 Solutions part of SYIP



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Jun 26: Invite members to serve on PDAP

Jul 3: News release: Geotech crews begin work on Rt. 29

Jul 10: PDAP #1

Jul 17: PDAP #2

Jul 24: News release: Request for Qualifications issued for Rt. 29

Aug 6: Secretary Layne and Commissioner Kilpatrick tour Rt. 29 Solutions projects

Aug 6: Secretary Layne briefs Albemarle Co. Board of Supervisors on Rt. 29 Solutions projects and regional transportation matters



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Aug 7: PDAP #3

Aug 10: Secretary Layne Daily Progress op-ed: *Big results promised for Rt. 29*

Aug 19: Public notice of Berkmar Extension public hearing

Aug 25: Meet with David Foky NBC29 news director to arrange post-PDAP interviews

Aug 27: Meet with Griff Benner, Newsplex 19 news director, to arrange post-PDAP interviews

Aug 28: PDAP #4



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Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Aug 28: News release: Five Teams Respond to Rt. 29 RFQ

Aug 29: First bi-weekly post-PDAP WINA radio interview

Sep 4: Secretary Layne meets with Daily Progress editorial board

Sep 5: New route29solutions.org website launched with public *Provide Input* feature added at PDAP's recommendation

Sep 5: Deputy Secretary Grindly Johnson tours Rt. 29 projects

Sep 9: Published Notice of Availability of Environmental Documents for Public Review

Sep 10: WINA advance PDAP meeting interview



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Sep 11: PDAP #5

Sep 12: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview

Sep 12: WINA post-PDAP interview

Sep 17: Meeting with North Charlottesville Business Council

Sep 18: Berkmar Extension Location Public Hearing (≈ 70 attend)

Sep 19: News release: Three Teams Selected for Rt. 29 Proposal

Sep 25: PDAP #6

Sep 26: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview

Sep 26: WINA post-PDAP interview



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Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Sep 29: News release: Utility work to begin on Rt 29 Best Buy ramp

Sep 29 - Oct 3: one-on-one visits to Rt. 29 businesses in advance of utility work

Oct 2: News release: Request for Proposals Released

Oct 3: News release: Nighttime lane closures for Adaptive Signals for Phase I

Oct 9: PDAP #7



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Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Oct 10: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview

Oct 10: WINA post-PDAP interview

Oct 10: Philip Shucet interview with Daily Progress Editorial Board

Oct 10: News release: Rt 29 Design-Build Design Public Hearing, Oct 14

**Oct 14: Design-Build Design Public Hearing, Albemarle High School
(≈ 201 attend)**

Oct 14: News release: Angus road nighttime closure for utility work

Oct 15: News release: CTB approves Berkmar Extension location

Oct 23: PDAP #8



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Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

- Oct 23: Albemarle County holds business outreach public meeting (≈ 120 attend)**
- Oct 24: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview**
- Oct 24: WINA post-PDAP interview**
- Oct 24: NBC29 interview to review MOT Plan at Rio GSI**
- Oct 28: Meeting with Charlottesville-Albemarle Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**
- Oct 28: Newsplex 19 interview**
- Oct 30: Albemarle BOS meeting with ≈ 20 Rt. 29 / Rio businesses**



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Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Nov 6: PDAP #9

Nov 7: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview

Nov 7: WINA post-PDAP interview

Nov 7: one-on-one meetings with Kirt's Ice Cream, Charlottesville Power Equipment, Wells Fargo Bank, and Applebee's

Nov 10: NBC 29 interview

Nov 10: Cville Tomorrow interview

Nov 10: News release: Advertisement for Best Buy Ramp bids

Nov 12: Meeting with Virginia Blood Services



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Nov 12: Interview with WINA regarding Best Buy bid advertisement

Nov 13: Meeting with Executive Director Charlottesville-Albemarle Chamber of Commerce

Nov 19: Meeting with Federal Realty, manager of Shoppers World Plaza

Nov 20: 1st edition of Project Newsletter to \approx 5,000

Nov 20: PDAP #10

Nov 20: Meeting with Jefferson Area Tea Party

Nov 21: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview

Nov 21: WINA post-PDAP interview



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Nov 21: Meetings with Merchant's Tire and Charlottesville Power Equipment

Nov 24: Follow-up meeting with Charlottesville Power Equipment

Dec 1: Meeting with Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Tourism Bureau

Dec 2: Meeting with Smart29

Dec 4: Meeting with Charlottesville-Albermarle Chamber of Commerce Council of Past Presidents

Dec 4: PDAP #11



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Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

- Dec 5: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview**
- Dec 5: WINA post-PDAP interview**
- Dec 5: Meeting with Bill Crutchfield**
- Dec 5: Meetings with Fresh Market, China Med, PT@ACAC, Martha Jefferson Orthopedics, Albemarle Sq. Family Health Care, Carving Board Café, and US Cellular**
- Dec 8: Meeting with owner of The Little Gym**
- Dec 11: Briefing to North Neighborhood Roundtable**
- Dec 16: Meeting with All-American Signs**
- Dec 17: News release: Bids received for Best Buy ramp project**



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2014

Dec 17: Newsplex 19 interview regarding Best Buy bids

Dec 18: Meeting with Smart29

Dec 18: PDAP #12

Dec 19: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview

Dec 22: Meeting with Goodwill Industries

Dec 23: Meeting with owners of Goodyear and Jenkins Automotive

Jan 2: Interview with NBC 29

Jan 5: Meeting with Martha Jefferson Hospital

Jan 8: PDAP #13



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2015

- Jan 8: Meeting with John Lloyd regarding Northfields neighborhood**
- Jan 9: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview**
- Jan 9: WINA post-PDAP interview**
- Jan 11: Secretary Layne Daily Progress op-ed: *Action is Overdue on U.S. 29***

- Jan 14: News release: CTB awards Best Buy Ramp project**
- Jan 21: WINA interview regarding design-build price proposals**
- Jan 21: Meeting with Old Forge Neighborhood**
- Jan 22: PDAP #14**



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2015

Jan 23: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview

Jan 23: WINA post-PDAP interview

Jan 23: Interview with Daily Progress reporter Bryan McKenzie

Jan 23: News release: VDOT issues Notice of Intent to award design-build contract

Jan 30: Second edition of project newsletter issued to \approx 5,000

Feb 1: Daily Progress 4-pg special section on Rt. 29 Solutions

Feb 3: Meeting Carving Board Café

Feb 5: PDAP #15



Route 29 Solutions

Public Notice, Communication and Outreach

2015

Feb 6: Newsplex 19 post-PDAP interview

Feb 6: WINA post-PDAP interview

Feb 9: Followup meeting with Goodwill Industries

Feb 12: Meeting to brief residents on pending start of Best Buy Ramp construction



Route 29 Solutions

Opposition to the Rio GSI



Route 29 Solutions

Opposition to Rio GSI

- **One Board of Supervisor member does not endorse the Rio GSI, or wants it to be “resequenced.”**
- **Smart29 Organization does not support the Rio GSI.**
- **Smart 29 indicates they’ve collected 14,000 petition signatures.**
- **Smart 29 conducted a phone survey and reports 60% surveyed opposed GSI.**
- **The business representatives on PDAP do not support the Rio GSI.**
- **All Board of Supervisor motions to delay delivery of the Rio GSI have either failed or not advanced for lack of a second.**



Route 29 Solutions

Correcting Incorrect Information

SIGN THE PETITION AT
SMART29.ORG

HOW DOES VDOT JUSTIFY THIS PROJECT?
\$84M FOR A 1-MINUTE SAVING?



VDOT's only concern is through traffic flow, not local traffic. Modern urban planning supports parallel street structure, not major limited access expressway intersections in the middle of towns. Limited access leads to:

1. Loss of convenient access to businesses and venues.
2. Local businesses lose you and other customers and in turn reduce their workforce, relocate or close.
3. Economic blight in areas with limited access leads to increased crime rates and vagrancy.
4. Land values and tax bases are reduced substantially.

Tear off and mail attached postcards. Postage pre-paid.

VDOT has cited increasing traffic numbers, increasing accidents, increased pressure from parallel road work, and traffic flow.

FACTS

(based on VDOT and Albemarle County data):

- Rt. 29 corridor traffic is down 9.5% since its peak in 2002.
- Accidents are down 33% at the Rt. 29/Rio Rd. intersection since 2011.
- Parallel road work on Berkmar Extended and Hillsdale Dr. will reduce congestion at the Rio Rd. and Rt. 29 intersection as people choose alternate, less travelled routes.
- Maximum improvement in through traffic travel time will be around 1 minute, local traffic will generally experience increased travel times caused by the removal of critical traffic lights and turn options.

In other words, VDOT cannot justify this project. The only people benefiting would be the 10% through traffic, such as tractor trailers speeding through Charlottesville on to the next town.

ALL of the other projects in the Solutions 29 package make perfect sense, EXCEPT the Rio Rd./Rt. 29 GSI.



1. The Board of Supervisors has deferred to the State and is not representing your local interests! Tear off the attached postcard and send it to County Supervisor Brad Sheffield.
2. VDOT has rammed this project down the throat of the local community. Tear off and send the attached postcard to voice your concern to the Governor.
3. Come to the **Town Hall meeting** at Sutherland Middle School on January 29th at 6:30pm and learn more.
4. Go to **SMART29.org** and sign the online petition.
5. Follow us on Twitter **@No29Expressway**.
6. Like our Facebook page and share our posts at **Sustainable Methods for Albemarle's Regional Transportation**.
7. Talk to everyone you know and come across about this project and how it affects them.



Route 29 Solutions

From Smart29 Door Hanger:

“VDOT’s only concern is through traffic flow, not local traffic. Modern urban planning supports parallel street structure, not major limited access expressway intersections in the middle of towns.”

The correct information:

- **The existing Rio intersection operates and will operate at a poor level of service for both through and local traffic.**
- **The Rio GSI improves the efficiency of the intersection for local traffic by removing about 43,000 cars daily from local traffic conflicts in the intersection.**
- **The GSI is not a limited access expressway intersection in the middle of a town.**



Route 29 Solutions

From Smart29 Door Hanger:

“VDOT’s only concern is through traffic flow, not local traffic. Modern urban planning supports parallel street structure, not major limited access expressway intersections in the middle of towns.”

The correct information:

Existing Rt. 29 entrances between Dominion and Woodbrook:	23
Rt. 29 entrances after completion of the GSI:	23

Existing Rio entrances between Berkmar and Putt-Putt:	16
Rio entrances after completion of the GSI:	16

**1 Rt. 29 Albemarle Sq. full intersection becomes right-in / right-out
(1 of 4 existing access points)**

**1 Rt. 29 Fashion Sq. intersection becomes right-in / right-out
(1 of 6 existing access points)**



Route 29 Solutions

From Smart29 Door Hanger:

“The Board of Supervisors has deferred to the State and is not representing your local interests.”

The correct information:

Five members of the six-member Board of Supervisors endorsed the Rt. 29 Solutions projects on May 27, 2014.

Five members of the six-member Board of Supervisors continue to consistently endorse and support the projects.

CTB approved funding for Rt. 29 Solutions projects as part of SYIP following endorsements from City Council, Board of Supervisors and the MPO.



Route 29 Solutions

From Smart29 Door Hanger:

“VDOT has rammed this project down the throat of the local community.”

The correct information:

Charlottesville City Council endorsed the Rt. 29 Solutions projects in May 2014.

The Board of Supervisors endorsed the Rt. 29 Solutions projects in May 2014.

The MPO endorsed the Rt. 29 Solutions projects in May 2014 and included the projects in the MPO’s Constrained Long Rang Plan.

On June 18, 2014, the CTB voted to fund the Rt. 29 Solutions projects as part of the 2,700-project, \$13.1 billion FY15 SYIP.

A photograph of a road construction barrier with a white sign that says "CLOSED" in black capital letters. The barrier has red and white diagonal stripes. The background shows a road with yellow double lines.

CLOSED

**We invite you to voice your concerns at a
Town Hall Meeting**

**Thursday, January 29, 2015
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
at Sutherland Middle School**



Proposed Rio Rd. / Rt. 29 Construction:

This road project will affect you and your neighbors.

It will limit your access to businesses and venues along Route 29 forever.

When local businesses lose you and other customers, they must in turn



Route 29 Solutions

From Smart29 January 29, 2015 Town Hall Meeting Brochure:

“It (the Rio GSI) will limit your access to businesses and venues along Route 29 forever.”

The correct information:

Existing Rt. 29 entrances between Dominion and Woodbrook: 23

Rt. 29 entrances after completion of the GSI: 23

Existing Rio entrances between Berkmar and Putt-Putt: 16

Rio entrances after completion of the GSI: 16

**1 Rt. 29 Albemarle Sq. signalized intersection will become right-in / right-out
(1 of 4 existing access points)**

**1 Rt. 29 Fashion Sq. signalized intersection will become right-in / right-out
(1 of 6 existing access points)**



Route 29 Solutions

Smart 29's Telephone Survey

Conquest Communications Draft Rio GSIO Script

As you may know, VDOT has proposed the Rt. 29 underpass grade-separated interchange, or GSI, at Rio Road as part of the Department's "Solutions 29" package of local road improvements. VDOT wants to construct the GSI before completion of the necessary proposed parallel road system. This plan would likely have a negative impact on a number of businesses and shopping centers in the Rio Road area due the closure of Rio Road at Route 29 for 3-4 months and related construction activities.

Q01- Do you support or oppose the construction of the Rt. 29 GSI construction?

01 Support (Go to Q02)

02 Oppose (Go to Q03)

98 Unsure (Go to Q02)

99 Refused (Go to Q02)

Q02- This project would create a limited access underpass tunnel along route 29 for approximately 1000 feet before Rio Rd and 1000 feet after. Do you think that is an appropriate image for Charlottesville's main entrance corridor?

01 Yes

02 No

98 Undecided

99 Refused

Q03 - Suppose the project was reordered so that the parallel roads were constructed first, then a traffic analysis study was conducted to determine if the grade-separated interchange was still necessary...would you still oppose the project?

01 Yes (Go to Close)

02 No (Go to Close)

98 Unsure (Go to Close)

99 Refused (Go to Close)

CLOSE: That concludes our survey, thank you for your time.

Smart 29 Telephone Survey Script



Route 29 Solutions

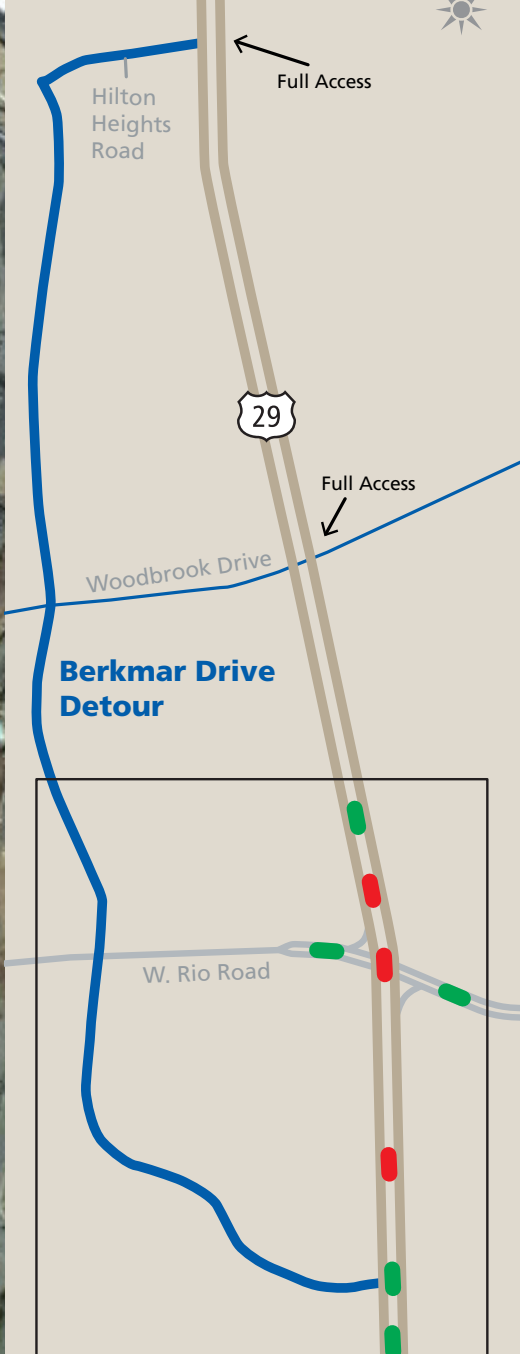
Excerpt from Smart29 Telephone Survey Script: *“This plan would likely have a negative impact on a number of businesses and shopping centers in the Rio Road area due the closure of Rio Road at Route 29 for 3-4 months and related construction activities.”*

The correct information:

Rio will be closed to cross-intersection traffic no longer than the period from May 23, 2016 to Sep 2, 2016 or 103 days.

There are substantial financial incentives to reduce the 103 - day period, and financial disincentives for missing the mark.

All 39 existing business entrances will remain open, paved, and drained during construction and remain open after construction is complete.



Open entrances May 23, 2016 - Sep 2, 2016



Route 29 Solutions

Excerpt from Smart29 Telephone Survey Script: “*This project would create a limited access underpass tunnel along route 29 for approximately 1000 feet before Rio Rd and 1000 feet after.*”

The correct information from the design-builders technical approach

Approximate length of northbound approach:	572 feet
Approximate length of southbound approach:	600 feet
Approximate length of the underpass:	194 feet

The project is not a limited access project. All existing connections to both Rt. 29 and Rio will remain connections to Rt. 29 and Rio.



Route 29 Solutions

The “Parallel Roads”



Route 29 Solutions

The “Parallel Roads”

The “parallel roads” refer to three projects of independent utility between logical termini:

- Berkmar Extension (included in the design-build contract)
- Rio GSI (included in the design-build contract)
- Hillsdale Extension (managed by the City and not included in the design-build contract)

Berkmar and Hillsdale will collect traffic from, and distribute traffic to, the Rt. 29 / Rio arterial intersection.



Route 29 Solutions

The Value of the Rio GSI



Route 29 Solutions

The efficiency of the existing Rt. 29 / Rio arterial intersection will continue to deteriorate.

No-Build GSI: The existing Rt. 29 / Rio Road arterial intersection will:

- **operate at peak-hour LOS D in both directions in 2018**
- **operate at peak-hour LOS F NB and LOS D SB in 2040**

Build GSI: The Rt. 29 / Rio Road GSI arterial intersection will:

- **operate at peak-hour LOS C in both directions in 2018**
- **operate at peak-hour LOS C in both directions in 2040**

Rt. 29 SB

2040 No-Build GSI Volumes

97,900: total intersection

26,000: Rio Rd volume through the at-grade intersection

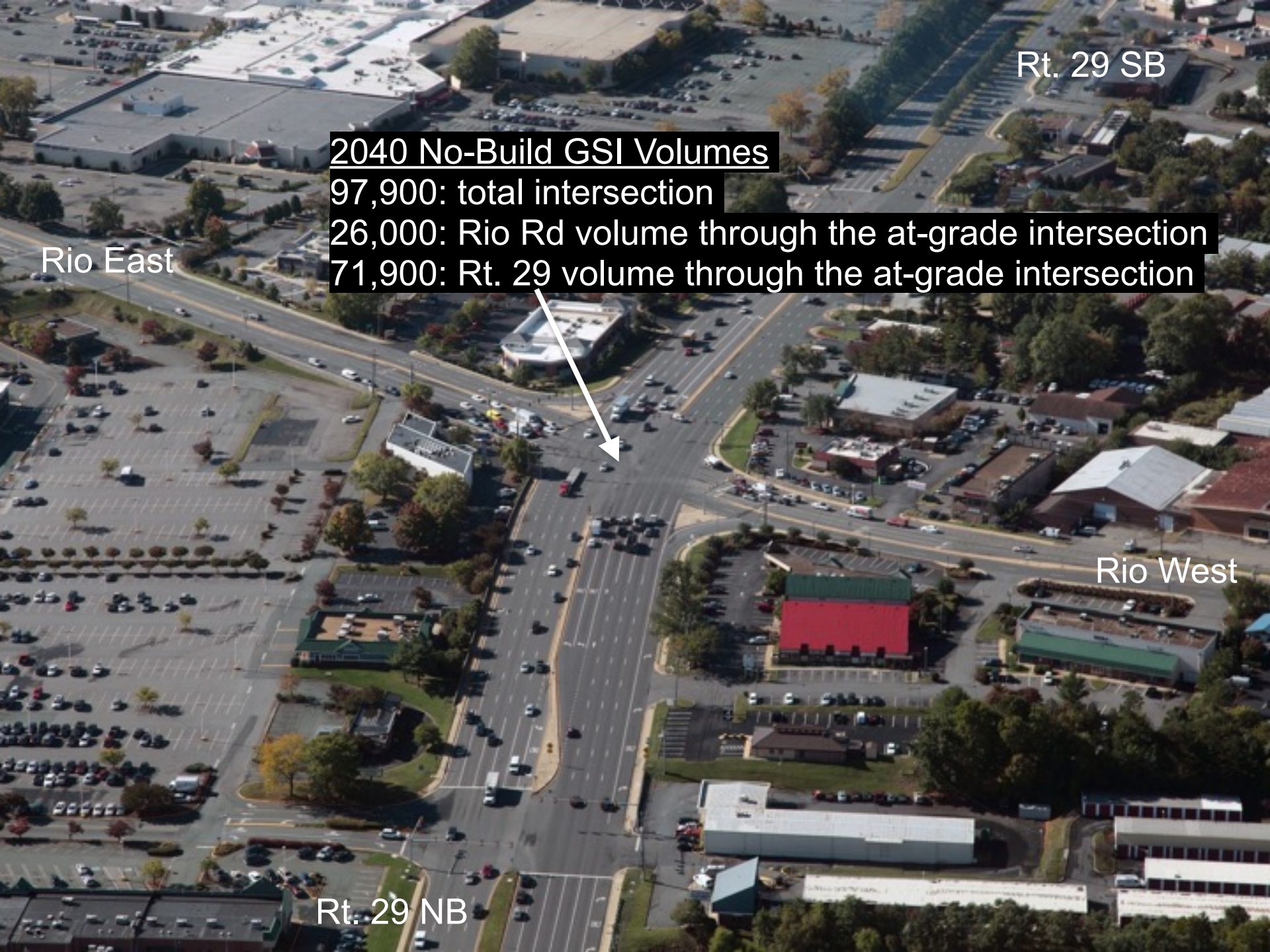
71,900: Rt. 29 volume through the at-grade intersection

Rio East



Rio West

Rt. 29 NB





22,300 NB →

2040 Build GSI Total Volumes
57,800: total at-grade intersection
27,800: Rio Rd intersection volume
30,000: Rt. 29 local intersection volume
(43,200 Rt. 29 through underpass)

← 20,900 SB



Route 29 Solutions

Recommendations

- **Award the Lane-Corman design-build contract.**
- **Maintain the schedule for the Rio GSI included in the design-build contract. The Rio GSI is scheduled to be open to traffic no later than Sep 2, 2016.**
- **Maintain the schedule for Berkmar included in the design-build contract. Berkmar is scheduled to be open no later than Oct 31, 2017.**
- **Maintain the schedule for Rt. 29 Widening from Polo Grounds to Towncenter Drive included in the design-build contract. Rt. 29 Widening is scheduled to open no later than Oct 31, 2017.**
- **Maintain the schedule for Hillsdale managed by the City. Hillsdale is scheduled to open no later than Oct. 31, 2017.**



A Review of the Rt. 29 Solutions Process

Considering, Selecting, Endorsing, Funding and Constructing the Rt. 29 Solutions Projects

February 17, 2015

Philip Shucet