The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) welcomes you to the location public hearing for the proposed extension of Route 1403 (Berkmar Drive) on a new alignment located parallel to and west of Route 29. The road will run approximately 2.3 miles north from Hilton Heights Road to Towncenter Drive in Albemarle County.

This public hearing is held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to share comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project. A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this meeting, and your input is encouraged.

Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today’s meeting (September 29, 2014) in order to be included in the public hearing record.

VDOT representatives will review and evaluate any information received as a result of this hearing. After all comments have been addressed, the information received as a result of the hearing will be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) to consider the proposed location for the project. If a location is approved by the CTB, the project will move forward to the preliminary design phase.

Project information is available for review after the public hearing at VDOT’s Charlottesville Residency, located at 701 VDOT Way, Charlottesville, VA 22911.

Comments can be submitted in writing to Robert Strevell, Project Manager, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701; or by email to Robert.Strevell@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

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Public Meeting

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) welcomes you to the location public hearing for the proposed extension of Route 1403 (Berkmar Drive) on a new alignment located parallel to and west of Route 29. The road will run approximately 2.3 miles north from Hilton Heights Road to Towncenter Drive in Albemarle County.

This public hearing is held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to share comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project. A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this meeting, and your input is encouraged.

Anticipated Cost – $54 million
Purpose – Construct an extension of Route 1403 (Berkmar Drive) that parallels Route 29 and provides an alternative roadway for local traffic
From – Hilton Heights Road
To – Towncenter Drive
Total Length – 2.3 miles
Improvements – Construct a two-lane roadway including pedestrian and bicycle facilities as well as a new bridge spanning the South Fork Rivanna River and Rio Mills Road. Acquire right of way for a future expansion to four lanes.

Projects are subject to change. For additional information or assistance contact VDOT’s Culpeper District Office of Civil Rights, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701; telephone 1-800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623), TDD/TTY 800-307-4630 or 711.
This project will construct a 2.3-mile extension of Berkmar Drive running north from Hilton Heights Road to Towncenter Drive in Albemarle County.

The Berkmar Drive Extension will provide a parallel road option to motorists traveling within and through Albemarle County that avoids a congested segment of the Route 29 corridor.

The new two-lane urban collector road will include a dedicated bicycle lane in each direction, a sidewalk on the west side of the roadway and a 10 foot wide shared-use path on the east side. The project also includes construction of a new bridge spanning the South Fork Rivanna River and Rio Mills Road. VDOT currently plans to acquire right of way that will enable a future expansion of Berkmar Drive to a four-lane divided highway.

VDOT is considering three alignment alternatives, including an alignment previously developed by Albemarle County and alignments to the east and west. Displays depicting the alternatives are being presented at this meeting for public review and comment.

A design public hearing will follow, at which the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the project’s design features.

This project is being developed as part of the Route 29 Solutions design-build contract. The contract is currently in the procurement process and an award is anticipated in February 2015.

Construction of the new roadway is scheduled to begin in 2016, with completion in fall 2017.

Environmental Review

This project is being coordinated through the State Environmental Review Process (SERP). Field surveys will be conducted and state resource agencies contacted to obtain input regarding the potential impacts of the project to the environment. SERP provides Virginia’s environmental resource agencies an opportunity to comment on the highway improvements at the project initiation state.

The environmental documentation including the information, views and interests received from the resource agencies will be prepared and presented at a future design public hearing. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will also be available in the environmental documentation.

Right of Way

Construction of the Berkmar Drive Extension will not require the displacement of any families, businesses or nonprofit organizations.

As the design is developed, VDOT will determine what right of way and easements are needed to accommodate construction. This information will be available at a future design public hearing. The property owners will be notified of the exact location of right of way and easements needed during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT’s Right of Way and Utilities brochure, “A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants.” Copies of this brochure are available at the VDOT Charlottesville Residency office and from any VDOT Right of Way agent.