



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Sean T. Connaughton
Secretary of Transportation

July 27, 2011

Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
Stephen Williams, Executive Director
Post Office Box 1505
401 East Water Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) took action on July 20, 2011 to amend the SYIP to include Route 29 Widening and also allocated \$230 million in funding for both the Route 29 Widening and the Route 29 Bypass. This is a significant commitment by the CTB to fund transportation improvements in this area. Also, during the CTB meeting, there was testimony on the importance of improving the overall transportation network in the Charlottesville-Albemarle area. Accordingly, I will recommend to the CTB that the next update of the FY 2013 to FY 2018 Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) include resources to accomplish the following:

1. Completion of Hillsdale Drive - This project is currently being developed as an Urban project in the City of Charlottesville and in the preliminary engineering phase of development. I understand the city believes that it can successfully acquire donated right of way, which leaves a funding need of approximately \$10 million. I will recommend to the CTB that funding for construction be included in the SYIP.
2. US29/US250 (Best Buy) Ramp and Lane Improvements- This project is currently being developed as an urban project in the City of Charlottesville. I will provide the resources necessary for VDOT to take over the administration of the project and manage it to completion. It is my expectation that the city will retain the already committed funding on the project as identified in the SYIP.
3. Berkmar Drive Extension - I am directing VDOT as part of the Route 29 Bypass design, to include the conceptual design and layouts of Berkmar Drive Extended including the river crossing to ensure the Bypass does not preclude the construction of Berkmar Drive Extended.

Mr. Stephen Williams
July 27, 2011
Page Two

4. Belmont Bridge - This project is currently being developed as an urban project in the City of Charlottesville and in the preliminary engineering phase of development. VDOT staff has informed me the poor condition of bridge deck and the low sufficiency rating of this structure would warrant accelerating the replacement of the bridge. I will recommend the CTB provide \$8.4 million in funding to the SYIP to advance construction of this project.

I look forward to the cooperation and support from the MPO as we move these important regional and local transportation projects forward to construction.

In that regard, and as you are aware, the CTB has identified Route 29 as one of eleven transportation corridors as Corridors of Statewide Significance (COSS). The purpose of a COSS designation is to provide a multimodal vision for the corridors to guide localities in their land use and transportation plans. Without guidance, local decisions can degrade a corridor's ability to move people and goods, causing bottlenecks and problems that are costly to fix, and undermine economic and quality of life goals. As Virginia continues to grow, it must take steps now to ensure the right balance of development, transportation capacity, and natural resources. The real value of the COSS is the identification of strategies within each corridor as the first step in ensuring these corridors are invested in and protected for the future benefit of the entire Commonwealth.

In consideration of the aforementioned transportation investments the Commonwealth is making in your MPO's area of responsibility, it is our expectation that the MPO will commit to work with the CTB to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy that will protect your segment of the Route 29 Corridor from the types of encroachment that causes the bottlenecks and problems that we are currently planning to fix. We believe that the Albemarle-Charlottesville region has the opportunity to become a leader in this regard and, with your assistance, we look forward to making the COSS initiative meaningful for localities and the traveling public.

Sincerely,



Sean T. Connaughton