



U. S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Virginia Division
(804) 775-3320

400 North 8th Street, Rm. 750
Richmond, Virginia 23219

September 12, 2011

Right-of-Way Authorization
Route 29, Charlottesville Bypass

Mr. Rick L. Walton, Jr.
Chief of Policy and Environment
Virginia Department of Transportation
Richmond, Virginia

Attention: Mr. Richard Bennett

Dear Mr. Walton:

As you may be aware, our office issued an authorization for the acquisition of right-of-way for the Route 29, Charlottesville Bypass on August 19, 1997. Numerous properties have been purchased to date for the project under that authorization; however there are still several more that may need to be acquired.

Although all of the Federal funds authorized for the project have not been expended to date, we were recently informed that the last property acquisition occurred more than ten years ago. There have, however, been periodic expenditures for property management activities on the project.

We realize that there are efforts currently underway by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to reinstate the project and that an environmental re-evaluation will be prepared. In light of this environmental work, we are respectfully requesting that no additional right-of-way be purchased or any utilities relocated on this project until further notice. We do not want the acquisition of additional properties or the relocation of any of the utilities to bring into question, whether legitimate or not, the objectivity of the environmental process.

Sincerely,

Irene Rico
Division Administrator

2011 SEP 14 A 9:59
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
R/W & UTILITIES
CENTRAL OFFICE