

Charlottesville/Albemarle Transportation Coalition, Inc.

October 6, 2011

Press Release:

At the Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday [9/5/11] Supervisor Ken Boyd asked why the Charlottesville/Albemarle Transportation Coalition [CATCO] had delayed releasing construction cost information documents on the Route 29 bypass project obtained from VDOT under the Freedom of Information Act [FOIA].

CATCO sent VDOT a FOIA request on August 24, 2011 requesting this information. Normally a request must be answered within five working days. VDOT requested an additional seven days delay due to the hurricane, to respond by September 13. The reply was dated September 13, but the USPS package was mailed in Culpeper and received in the late afternoon of September 19, 2011. CATCO then issued a press release the next day, September 20, 2011, complete with all the supporting documents, to the Board of Supervisors as well as the press. Mr. Boyd and all elected officials were given the information the day after CATCO received it. Our release detailed the internal VDOT cost estimates by their top engineering staff for this project. These estimates were prepared before the July 20 Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting, at which the approved Bypass construction cost was presented as \$118 million and the total project cost as \$234 million. These FOIA cost estimates were more than twice as large as the numbers presented to the CTB.

CATCO did not withhold or delay the dissemination of this important information.

George Larie, President
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