

# Access Closure to Route 17 Southbound from Frontage Route 1077 (Marsh Road)

## Background

In December 2013, VDOT completed construction of the loop ramp at Route 15/17/29 and Route 17 in the Opal area of Fauquier County, and subsequently added pavement markings and highway signs and updated traffic signal timing to improve traffic operations in the area.

However, Route 15/17/29 southbound traffic continues to turn left at the signal rather than use the loop ramp to reach Route 17 southbound, causing a long queue in the left-turn lane and spillover into the through lanes, especially during the afternoon commute and on weekends. This congestion has led to an increase in rear-end and side-swipe crashes at the intersection.

## Details of Work

To improve safety and traffic flow, VDOT proposes to close off access to Route 17 southbound from the signalized intersection by constructing a U-turn facility. Through traffic will instead use the loop ramp to access Route 17 southbound.

Local access to commercial and residential entrances will be maintained, and Route 17 northbound traffic will not be restricted.

## Schedule

VDOT plans to put the access restriction in place during fall 2016. Work will take approximately two weeks to complete, and will occur entirely within the VDOT right of way.

