



NEWS RELEASE

VirginiaDOT.org

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EAST RIO ROAD TO CLOSE OCT. 5 FOR CONSTRUCTION **Traffic will use Meadowcreek Parkway as temporary detour during six-week project**

CULPEPER — East Rio Road will be closed to traffic between Dunlora Drive and Pen Park Lane for approximately six weeks beginning Oct. 5. The closure is necessary so the road can be rebuilt to complete the northern connection with the Meadowcreek Parkway project.

During the construction traffic will be directed from East Rio Road onto the Meadowcreek Parkway. The detour will send traffic south to Melbourne Road, where motorists will turn left to return to Park Street. Traffic traveling north on Park Street should turn left at Melbourne Road and right onto the Meadowcreek Parkway to East Rio Road. Motorists should also consider using alternate routes such as Route 29 and Route 250.

A new traffic signal at the intersection of Melbourne Road and the Meadowcreek Parkway will control the flow of traffic onto Melbourne Road during the detour. Local traffic will be able to travel East Rio Road between Melbourne Road and Pen Park Lane. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is coordinating the road closure and detour with Albemarle County and the city of Charlottesville to minimize the effect on residents and motorists.

Once the realignment and rebuilding of East Rio Road is completed the road will be reopened to traffic and the Meadowcreek Parkway will be closed so that remaining work on the project can be completed.

The \$11.8 million project is building a new 1.4-mile, two-lane parkway from East Rio Road south to the Charlottesville city limits at Melbourne Road. It also includes the upcoming

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reconstruction of a portion of East Rio Road and replacement and widening of the bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks. In addition to the parkway a 10-foot-wide paved pedestrian path will roughly parallel the road project through a linear park between Melbourne Road and East Rio Road. The path will be connected with the Rivanna Trails network when the project is finished.

The project, which is being built by Faulconer Construction Co. Inc, of Charlottesville, is scheduled for completion on Oct. 14, 2011.

More information about the Meadowcreek Parkway project is available on VDOT's web site: <http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/culpeper/meadowcreek.asp>

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