



NEWS RELEASE

VirginiaDOT.org

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EAST RIO ROAD WILL NOT BE CLOSED ON OCT. 5

Traffic switch postponed to complete work on temporary Meadowcreek Parkway detour

CULPEPER —East Rio Road will not be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 5 for reconstruction work related to the Meadowcreek Parkway project as previously announced. The closure is being delayed to complete work so that traffic can safely use the Parkway as a temporary detour between East Rio Road and Melbourne Road. The closure will likely be done early next week but a firm date will be announced later this week.

East Rio Road will be closed for approximately six weeks so the road can be rebuilt to complete the northern connection with the Meadowcreek Parkway project. The road will be closed to traffic between Dunlora Drive and a point west of the intersection of East Rio Road and Pen Park Road. All private entrances along East Rio Road will remain open during the closure.

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

During the construction detour traffic will be directed from East Rio Road onto the Meadowcreek Parkway just east of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center. 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

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control the flow of traffic onto Melbourne Road during the detour. 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. Another new signal at the intersection of the Parkway and East Rio Road will control traffic at that location.

Local traffic will be able to travel East Rio Road between Melbourne Road and Pen Park Road. When East Rio Road is closed the entrance to CATEC will move from its current location to the new signal-controlled intersection at the north end of the parkway. That relocation is permanent.

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 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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