



NEWS RELEASE

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PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR ROUTE 53 ROUNDABOUT IN FLUVANNA *Intersection realignment will improve safety, efficiency of traffic flow at Route 600*

CULPEPER — The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing next week to gather public comment on its proposal to build a roundabout at the intersection of Route 53 (Thomas Jefferson Parkway) and Route 600 (South Boston Road) in Fluvanna County.

The roundabout will replace the current “T” intersection, which is controlled by a stop sign on Route 600. The project will also shift Route 53 to the south and realign both its approaches to eliminate sharp curves and improve sight distance. The project will improve safety for motorists and allow traffic to move more efficiently through the intersection.

VDOT evaluated several options to improve safety at the intersection, including installing a traffic signal to control traffic. The analysis showed a roundabout would be the best solution. Route 600 carries approximately 4,600 vehicles per day, while approximately 6,400 vehicles travel that section of Route 53 every day.

The design public hearing will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, at the Fluvanna County Public Library, 214 Commons Blvd., Palmyra, Va. 22963. VDOT staff will be at the meeting to discuss the project and answer questions. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the meeting; comments on the project can also be made until May 10, 2010. After the hearing comments should be sent to James S. Utterback, PMP, Culpeper District Administrator, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper, VA 22701; email James.Utterback@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

During the construction project VDOT is proposing that Route 600 be closed to traffic for approximately 30 days. Traffic will be detoured using Route 616, Route 618 and Route 15. The temporary closure will save approximately \$30,000 and one month of construction time.

The current project schedule calls for construction to begin in the fall of 2012. The cost of the project, including design, right of way and construction, is estimated at \$2,230,000.

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