



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
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16 November 2009

Ms Angela Tucker
City of Charlottesville
Department of Neighborhood Services
City Hall
P.O. Box 911
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Re: Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road, Revised Environmental Assessment (EA)
City of Charlottesville
VDOT Project # 0250-104-130, PE101
DHR File # 2006-1589

Dear Ms Tucker:

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has received for our review and comment the Revised Environmental Assessment (EA) for the above referenced project. The EA examines the environmental consequences of the proposed Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road, City of Charlottesville. As you are aware the DHR has been actively involved in consultations on this undertaking with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the City of Charlottesville, and other consulting parties pursuant to our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and in implementing regulation 36 CFR Part 800. The consultation to date has included us commenting on the Area of Potential Effects (APE), the identification of historic properties within the APE, and the effect of the undertaking on historically and architecturally significant resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

In a letter dated 28 January 2009, the DHR concurred with the City's assessment that the planned Route 250/McIntire Road interchange project will adversely affect historic properties. Since that time, our agency has worked with the City, the FHWA, and the other consulting parties to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in order to address the adverse effect. The latest effort at this was a meeting with all parties in Charlottesville on 9 October 2009. This meeting, at which Ms Carol Legard of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) acted as facilitator, attempted, with some success, to direct the parties to mutual agreement on appropriate mitigation measures to include in an MOA document. The ACHP articulated in writing its recommendations coming out of the meeting in a correspondence dated 30 October 2009. The DHR supports these recommendations, especially the possibility of the City purchasing or being granted an easement on the Rock Hill Landscape in order to pursue its rehabilitation (No. 4 in the

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ACHP's 30 October letter). With respect to vegetative screening mentioned in point No. 6 of the ACHP's letter, any plans for screening should ensure that the proposed upgrade of the existing sewer line by the City, which we understand is not part of this undertaking, does not inhibit or otherwise prevent such a mitigation measure being implemented. We request that the City and FHWA continue to work with the DHR, the ACHP, and the other consulting parties to finalize appropriate mitigation for this undertaking.

One final point, in Figure 7 on page 21 of the EA the APE is depicted as being just short of Melbourne Road. The DHR has tried repeatedly to correct this graphic, which has been used extensively to show the extent of the APE. It was always our understanding that the parties agreed that the APE should extend all the way to Melbourne Road. Please ensure that the APE is correctly indicated going fully to Melbourne Road in future illustrations.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at (804) 367-2323, Ext. 114.

Sincerely,



Marc Holma, Architectural Historian
Office of Review and Compliance

C: Mr. Ed Sundra, FHWA
Mr. John Simkins, FHWA
Ms Kathy Perdue, US Army Corps of Engineers
Ms Carol Legard
Mr. Eric Almquist, RK&K Engineers
Mr. Owen Peery, RK&K Engineers
Mr. Tony Opperman, VDOT
Ms Mary Ellen Hodges, VDOT
Mr. Leo Rutledge, VDOT
Ms Donna Seifert, John Milner Associates
Mr. Mike Svetz, Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Department
Dr. Daniel Bluestone, Ph.D.
Ms Colette Hall
Ms Mary A. R. Howard
Mr. Peter Kleeman
Mr. Rich Collins