



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1601 ORANGE ROAD
CULPEPER, VIRGINIA 22701
VirginiaDOT.org

GREGORY A. WHIRLEY
ACTING COMMISSIONER

March 9, 2010

The Honorable David Norris
Mayor, City of Charlottesville
Post Office Box 911
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Dear Mayor Norris:

Thank you for the letter dated January 4, 2010 to clarify past Council action regarding the McIntire Road Extended project and construction of a grade separated interchange at the Route 250 Bypass. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is aware of Council's position that these two separate, independent projects should be coordinated to minimize impacts to the community while efficiently using limited transportation funding and the current McIntire Road Extended plans reflect this coordinated effort with a connection to the interchange project.

The November 23, 2009 letter from Ms. Angela Tucker was in response to an inquiry from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers questioning if McIntire Road Extended would be connected to the Route 250 bypass if the interchange was not constructed. This letter confirmed multiple meetings, discussions, and agreements made by key stakeholders from the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County and VDOT. At this point, these two letters from the City appear in conflict and have confused the Corps and resulted in a temporary delay in issuing the permit needed for the construction of McIntire Road Extended.

As you are aware, the McIntire Road Extended project was recently advertised and received very attractive bids. However, the contract will not be awarded until we receive the permit from the Corps. The low bid for McIntire Road Extended was more than \$1 million under the estimate and the contractor is not required to honor this bid after the end of March. There is no guarantee that future bids would be this competitive and thus further delays could result in a cost increase of \$1 million of taxpayer funds. Certainly this is not in the public's best interest and the neither City Council nor VDOT want an unnecessary delay that could result in this type of cost increase. In addition, the award

WE KEEP VIRGINIA MOVING

The Honorable David Norris
March 9, 2010
Page 2

of this project will provide additional jobs and an economic benefit for the Charlottesville area at a time when unemployment and the economy are struggling to recover.

I am confident that the City Council now understands the impacts of the confusion caused by these letters. To further assist, I have attached for your signature a proposed draft letter to the Corps that clarifies this matter and will provide for issuing the permit needed for the construction of McIntire Road Extended.

Your timely attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Brent Sprinkel, PE". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "D.B.S." and "PE" clearly visible.

D. Brent Sprinkel, PE
Assistant District Administrator
VDOT – Culpeper District

cc. Mr. James Utterback, PMP
Mr. Gary O'Connell