

Route 29 at Vint Hill Road, “Cut the Hills” project Frequently Asked Questions

- Q) Why can't the southbound lanes of Route 29 be converted to two-way traffic, with one lane running in each direction?
- A) That configuration was studied as an option. It would create major congestion in both directions for longer periods and turn movements to and from Route 215 (Vint Hill Road) could not be accommodated.
- Q) I am concerned about speeding and reckless drivers on the secondary roads near the project. How will increased traffic volumes be handled on those roads during the closure?
- A) VDOT is working closely with the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police to provide enhanced law enforcement support during the closure. Officers will be stationed at identified locations to assist with traffic control, and patrols will address violators. Seven officers will be dedicated specifically to the project during the first week; six officers per day will be dedicated for the remainder of the closure, in addition to normal police presence.
- Q) While Route 29 is shut down, will we see many more large trucks on those roads?
- A) Four roads in the vicinity of the project will be restricted for trucks with more than 3 axles during the closure: Route 600 east (Broad Run Church Road) and west (Beverlys Mill Road) of Route 29, Route 602 (Rogues Road), Route 628 (Blantyre Road) and Route 245 (Old Tavern Road). Trucks will be able to access businesses in the Vint Hill area using Route 605 and Route 215.
- Q) July 8 to August 2 does not seem like much time to complete this work. Can the improvements really be done in the time allotted to the closure?
- A) VDOT's Culpeper District has a proven record of delivering challenging projects within a time-limited schedule, such as the Route 29 Solutions projects in the Charlottesville region. A VDOT project team, including senior engineering staff, will provide oversight of all activities before and during the closure. In addition, Chemung Contracting is an experienced highway and quarry contractor with expertise and resources that match the work to be done.
- Q) Will this work affect my daily commute on Route 29?
- A) Yes. Commuting times are likely to increase, especially in the morning in the northbound direction and during the first few days of the closure as drivers get used to the new traffic patterns. We suggest allowing at least 30 additional minutes for the morning commute. If telework or an alternate work schedule are options, you may wish to consider those during the closure period.
- Q) Will VDOT modify the traffic signal timing at nearby intersections during the closure?
- A) Yes, the signal timing at several intersections, including Route 29/215 (Vint Hill Road) and Route 29/600 (Broad Run Church/Beverlys Mill) will be revised to reflect the changes in traffic patterns and turning movements during the closure. Additional VDOT-maintained signals will be monitored from the regional Transportation Operations Center and adjusted if needed.

Q) Why does the project require a complete directional closure as opposed to phased construction while leaving one northbound lane open?

A) That option was studied. Due to the type of work, involving significant excavation and blasting to remove rock, it is not safe for traffic to be that close to the active work zone. This area is also environmentally sensitive and the additional work required to accommodate those concerns would have extended the project schedule by several months, impacted the academic year and increased the project cost.

Once the northbound lanes are reopened to traffic, the contractor will continue to complete work outside the travel lanes. This may require overnight single lane closures in both directions. The entire project will be complete by Sept. 30, 2019.

Q) Why is blasting being done on this project? What is the blasting procedure?

A) The material being removed is mostly rock, and blasting is the most effective and efficient way to remove it. Charges are placed in holes drilled in the rock and detonated, which fractures the rock, making it easier to remove. The detonation is controlled below ground. The contractor will monitor each blast and inspect the area after; once the all-clear is given, traffic will resume. There will be one blast per day, likely in early afternoon, for 8-10 days (excluding Sunday). During the blast, southbound traffic on Route 29 will be stopped at Vint Hill Road for about eight minutes. Traffic exiting the Pilgrims Rest neighborhood will also be stopped on Route 625. After the safety inspection, traffic will resume. Watch [video](#) of a similar blast.

Q) Why was the work scheduled at this time of the year?

A) This mid-summer closure has the least impact to the public schools, particularly school bus routes. The end of the closure, August 2, is prior to the beginning of the fall term for the county's schools.

Q) Will there be temporary traffic signals installed at any intersections to help move the increased traffic through the intersections?

A) No. Law enforcement will be stationed at identified intersections to assist with traffic control during rush hour and as needed to monitor and direct traffic. Other law enforcement officers will patrol the roads in the New Baltimore area.

Q) What happens if there is a crash or a disabled vehicle on the detour route?

A) VDOT's Safety Service Patrol will be assigned to the I-66 and Route 17 detour route during high volume times. SSP operators are trained to provide assistance to disabled vehicles. Tow trucks will also be dispatched at the same time as police are to remove disabled vehicles and clear crash scenes. This "Instant Tow" protocol will be implemented on July 1.

Q) How do I find out more information about the project?

A) Visit VDOT's project page: [Route 29 at Vint Hill Road, Fauquier County](#)

If you would like to be added to the project email list, email Lou.Hatter@VDOT.Virginia.gov with a request to be added to the distribution list.

Follow @VaDOTCULP on Twitter. Project information and news is also being distributed on the district's Twitter account, @VaDOTCULP