

Route 50 Update/Project Timelines

VDOT has released a new <u>fact sheet</u> regarding progress on the Route 50 project. I have received several questions about the overall project completion date, which is now listed as November 2015, and I want to provide you with some additional information that was not explained in the VDOT update.

The last thing anyone wants is further delays on Route 50, and the good news is that VDOT is sticking to the previous projected completion dates for most parts of the project.

Specifically:

By the end of **Fall 2014**, VDOT is projecting that three full lanes will be open for **Eastbound** traffic throughout the entire project. The project will not be considered 100% complete, because work will still be underway on multi-use trails, final grading, medians and utilities--but you should see significant improvement on 50 Eastbound.

By the **end of 2014**, VDOT is projecting that three full lanes will open for **Westbound** traffic west of Stonecroft Blvd. Again, work may continue beyond that on other components.

The change that is reflected on the sheet relates to the **Westbound section between Route 28** and Stonecroft. After the project was started, a decision was made to add a fourth lane between 28 and Stonecroft, and to build a spur from the 28 offramp for Lee Road traffic. The spur will allow vehicles that currently have to cut across traffic from 28 to take a left on Lee Road to have a direct entry onto the left side of Westbound 50, which should make it safer for them and remove congestion for other traffic. These changes were originally expected to be completed in June 2015, but that date has now been pushed to **November 2015**.

There will be three major Westbound lane shifts coming over the next several months--we will share information about each of those when the time comes.

I will once again be hosting the entire project management team--Shirley Contracting and VDOT--for a public information meeting in the South Riding area. I expect to hold that meeting in May, and we'll of course provide details as we get closer. I would encourage everyone with questions about Rt. 50 to attend that meeting.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns on this or any other issue.