



## GOVERNOR TERRY MCAULIFFE DEDICATES NEW FREEDMANS VILLAGE BRIDGE

Arlington, VA - September 10, 2015 - On Thursday, September 10th, Shirley Contracting Company, LLC joined Governor Terry McAuliffe, VDOT, local leaders and the community in dedicating the new “Freedmans Village Bridge,” that carries Washington Boulevard (Route 27) over Columbia Pike (Route 244). The bridge was designed to honor Freedmans Village, a historic community that once occupied the surrounding land and was a refuge for freed and fugitive slaves during the Civil War.

On April 16, 2009, the Commonwealth Transportation Board designated the bridge as the “Freedmans Village Bridge.” The new bridge has features that reflect the historical significance of the area including bronze medallions depicting a house and a family from the historic community.

This project replaced the existing bridge with a new bridge that is wider, longer and more attractive. A light well separates westbound and eastbound lanes, and an acceleration/deceleration lane was added westbound between ramps to assist traffic weaving. The new bridge span accommodates turn lanes, a raised median, a wider sidewalk and a 10-foot shared-use path on Columbia Pike. Clearance under the bridge was increased to 16'-8.” Several ramps were also reconfigured to improve access, traffic flow and increase capacity. The previous box culvert that conveyed Long Branch through the center of the interchange was replaced with a double-cell box culvert and was extended to reduce erosion at the downstream end. The design provides enhanced safety, mobility and aesthetics for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.

“The new Freedmans Village Bridge is a great example of Virginia’s commitment to replacing aging and deteriorating infrastructure,” said Transportation Secretary Aubrey Layne. “Through the efforts of our project team, federal, local and contractor partners, and the local community, the new bridge and interchange accomplish our operational and safety goals, enhance travel for vehicles, buses, bicyclists and pedestrians, and preserve access to the local neighborhoods.”