



## RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATES NEW GAINESVILLE INTERCHANGE

Gainesville, VA - July 9, 2015 - On Thursday, July 9th, the Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne along with state and local leaders officially opened the new interchange with a ribbon cutting at the Virginia Gateway Shopping Center. The \$230 million Route 29 and Linton Hall Road Interchange Project eliminates the angled railroad crossing in the area bringing major safety and operational improvements to Gainesville.

The centerpiece of the project is a pair of overpasses: one carrying Route 29 over the Norfolk Southern Railroad for nearly 1,300 feet, and one carrying Linton Hall and Gallerher roads over the railroad and Route 29. To further improve traffic flow, Route 29 was widened to six lanes, with several driveway entrances and two traffic signals eliminated between I-66 and Virginia Oaks Drive.

Other features of the project include a five foot sidewalk, 10 foot shared-use path, 10 retaining walls, architectural treatments, road lighting and landscaping.

“This transformation is an outstanding improvement for both rail and road,” said Secretary Layne. “Four years ago, this intersection was flat, with drivers halted at every traffic signal during each rush hour and train crossing. Untangling Route 29, Linton Hall Road and Norfolk Southern Railroad traffic was a massive undertaking, but safer and more efficient access to Gainesville is now a reality for commuters, residents, shoppers, and rail users.”

Beginning in 2009, crews spent two years carefully moving major utilities, then a year building two detour roads that kept drivers moving during heavy construction. They then moved in almost one million cubic yards of material to raise Route 29 and build the four new bridges.

Route 29 traffic was moved to its new overpass in May 2015, and the final ramps were opened earlier this month. Shirley Contracting Company is finishing the project’s final details this summer.