



## ROUTE 7 WESTBOUND TRUCK CLIMBING LANES PROJECT WRAPS UP

Leesburg, VA - October 27, 2015 - On Tuesday, October 27th, Shirley gathered with state and local leaders to celebrate the Route 7 Westbound Truck Climbing Lanes project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The goal of the \$36.4 million project was to add a 2.5 mile truck-climbing lane westbound from West Market Street to Route 9 which opened in late August and has already helped to relieve a major traffic chokepoint by keeping traffic flowing during the afternoon rush hour. The project also helps to improve safety and operations by allowing heavy vehicles to climb the steep grade and to provide additional safety and operational improvements within the project limits.

The project, built by Shirley Contracting Company, LLC and designed by Dewberry Consultants LLC also included the relocation of a portion of the Washington & Old Dominion Trail. Since the opening of this portion last month, walkers, joggers and cyclists no longer have to cross Route 9 at Dry Mill Road but instead go under the road through a new tunnel.

Modifications to side road connections along Route 7 were also completed. A dedicated left turn lane from westbound Route 7 to Roxbury Hall Lane, as well as improved acceleration and deceleration lanes on the eastbound side; the extension of Fort Johnston Road to connect Alysheba Drive, Farm Market Road and Leeland Orchard Road; a new road segment to connect neighborhoods along Beechnut Road; and a new turn lane from eastbound West Market Street to the westbound Route 7 on-ramp. Additionally, a pair of roundabouts to keep traffic flowing along Route 9 and Route 7 interchange will be completed in November.

Del. J. Randall Minchew (R-10) said afternoon traffic regularly backed up in front of his home on West Market Street before the new lane opened, and already he's noticed improvements. State Sen. Jennifer T. Wexton (D-33) said her Leesburg neighborhood, Ashton Downs, also gets its fair share of vehicles trying to make their way west on Route 7.