



SYCOLIN ROAD REOPENS TO PUBLIC

Leesburg, VA - August 15, 2014 - On Tuesday, August 12th, the Town of Leesburg celebrated the reopening of Sycolin Road with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The \$17 million Sycolin Road Overpass Project restores the major north-south route into and out of downtown Leesburg. The project eliminated the accident-prone Leesburg Bypass/Sycolin Road intersection and replaced it with a bridge that features two 12-foot travel lanes. Sound barriers were installed on the south side of the bypass to reduce highway noise for residents in the Stratford development. The overpass features pedestrian sidewalks and a shared use path.

Mayor Kristen Umstattd said the project was a collaborative effort of the town, county and VDOT staff, noting that crews worked overtime to get the overpass completed on time. Chief Engineer Garrett Moore, stated "not only did the project finish two weeks ahead of schedule, but it also came in \$2 million under budget."

The intersection was one of the most dangerous in Loudoun County, according to Director of Public Works Tom Mason, who noted more than 50 crashes a year had been reported in the crossing. With the opening of the bridge, traffic will no longer be detoured and drivers, as well as pedestrians and bicyclists, will have safe access across the bypass. Calvin Grow, the town's transportation engineer, said. "Now that the bypass has limited access it will help traffic flow and also we can get in and out of town on Sycolin Road," he said. The overpass will also improve transportation for Frederick Douglass Elementary School students who live south of the bypass, Grow said. Instead of having to bus those students out to Route 7 or Battlefield Parkway and back into town "it's going to be a straight shot over the bypass to the school," he said, adding that one of the conditions of the construction contract was to complete the project before classes start this fall.

Sycolin Road carries more than 3,200 vehicles a day. VDOT officials say that number is expected to reach 10,000 vehicles by they year 2020.