

Save Our Communities

Say NO to the 29 Bypass!



Existing U.S. 250-U.S. 29 Bypass



Proposed southern interchange of the U.S. 29 Bypass. Illustration by SELC.

On August 22, 2001, a federal court ordered VDOT to take a much harder look at how the proposed bypass would affect the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir, the source of drinking water for more than 80,000 people in the Charlottesville-Albemarle County community.

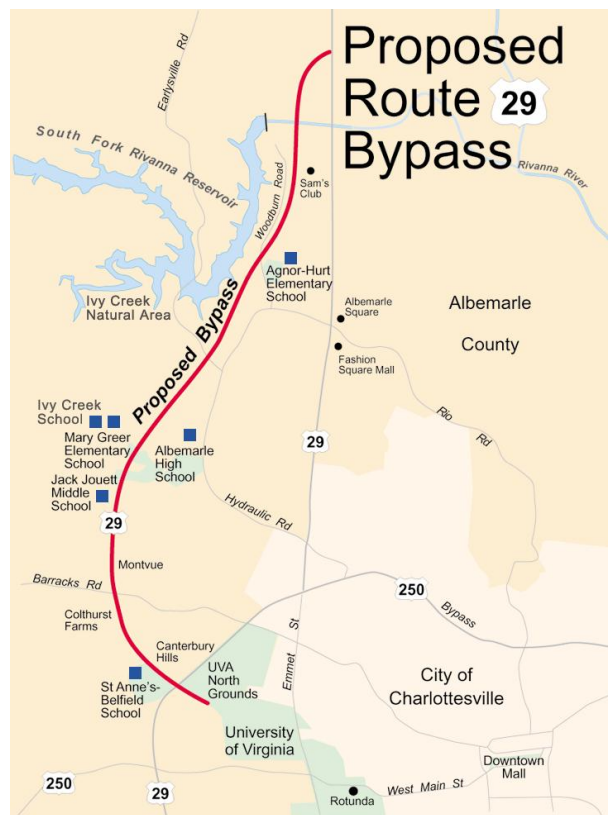
The order was the result of a lawsuit filed by the Charlottesville-based Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) on behalf of The Piedmont Environmental Council and the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, whose members, along with many other local citizens and officials, believe the bypass will do much more harm than good.

The Virginia Department of Transportation has tried for years to run a 6-mile highway through the Charlottesville area, destroying farmland and forests, harming schools and homes, and threatening the area's drinking water reservoir – purportedly to ease traffic congestion on U.S. 29.

It's one of the most expensive and most harmful highway projects in the country. And it won't solve traffic problems.

We now have a rare opportunity to stop the bypass for good.

We need your help.





Environmental Costs

- * 4 miles of the bypass would cut through the reservoir watershed, putting the area's drinking water at risk from erosion, polluted runoff and toxic spills.
- * Loss of scenic landscapes, one of the community's greatest assets.
- * Potential sprawl development of subdivisions and commercial strips into the countryside, bringing more air and water pollution.
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Cultural Costs

- * Bypass – with truck traffic, fumes and noise
– would run about ¼ mile or less from 6 schools: St. Anne's-Belfield Lower, Albemarle County High, Mary Greer Elementary, Jack Jouett Middle, Agnor Hurt Elementary and Ivy Creek.
- * Cut through 6 established neighborhoods, destroying 41 homes and affecting hundreds more.

Financial Costs

- * Currently more than \$30 million a mile, the bypass is mile-for-mile one of the most expensive road projects in the country
- * Taxpayers foot the \$200 million bill for an unnecessary highway.
- * Local taxpayers potentially foot bill for improving water treatment of at-risk reservoir.

Despite tremendous costs, the bypass simply won't work!

The bypass is intended to serve traffic passing through our community. But it won't solve the congestion problem along U.S. 29 since 90% of the vehicles are heading for local destinations, according to VDOT's own studies. Moreover, development along U.S. 29 north of where the bypass would intersect (just past the Rivanna River) has rendered any benefit to through-traffic virtually obsolete.

In their national *Road to Ruin* report, Taxpayers for Common Sense and Friends of the Earth identified the bypass as **one of the most destructive and wasteful road projects in the entire U.S.**



What Will Work?

In March 2001, SELC released a study by a national expert offering an attractive, well-designed overpass at the intersection of U.S. 29 and Hydraulic Road that would dramatically improve traffic flow in the area. VDOT's own studies show that a grade-separated interchange at Hydraulic – where level of service will receive a failing grade of "F" by 2010 – would result in a grade "B." SELC's study includes drawings of what the overpass could look like and is available on SELC's website at www.SouthernEnvironment.org

To learn more about the project and how you can help, contact SELC at:

(434) 977-4090

www.SouthernEnvironment.org



Join in the effort to save our communities!