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## Office of the Administrator

605-1 Pine Street  
Hillsville, VA 24343

April 30, 2008

Bob Beasley  
Resident Engineer – VDOT  
P. O. Box 188  
Hillsville, VA 24343

Dear Mr. Beasley,

I was very disheartened to learn from you and other Carroll County citizens that VDOT had closed route 743 on April 29, 2008.

I understand the importance of safety and applaud VDOT for the action taken to prevent danger, however; I am highly disturbed that it will take some eight (8) months to complete the project. This is absolutely un-acceptable from my stand point and that of the Board of Supervisors and local citizens.

While I am sure this is a large project, there MUST be another way to start and complete this project in an expedited manner. Some 440 vehicles use route 743 on a daily basis and many services such as mail, school buses, and trash collection take place on this route. Not only is this an inconvenience for local citizens but it is a financial burden. With the detour of twelve (12) miles (approximate distance between Hillsville and Galax) I can quickly calculate an additional fuel expense to local citizens of \$266,880 if only one-half of the citizens have to follow the detour for the eight (8) months. There is also a time issue as well as a vehicle operational cost that could be calculated at or above the fuel cost mentioned above. This is an additional cost to local citizens that cannot be tolerated and especially in the economic times we are currently experiencing.

Another issue that is safety involved as well is the safety issue. With the slow response to this "local disaster", there will be chaos with fire, police and rescue activities. What happens when fire trucks are dispatched to "the other side" of the burning house? What happens with car wreck dispatch when EMS responds to again, "the other side" of the

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event? How would you like for your family or friends be caught in a situation where a child's life is lost due to this road closure and the eight (8) month delay in repair?

To be honest, I feel as if I must contact my friends in the General Assembly to assist in fighting this battle for Carroll County citizens. The Carroll County Board of Supervisors will be contacting state leaders to ask when we must live as if we are in a "third world country". We will also be making sure that the cost of this repair is not taken from local funds because I see other issues of the same magnitude if we do NOT keep the road system maintained on a regular basis. Please know that Carroll County is treating this situation as an emergency and I hope that you and VDOT in general feel the same magnitude of pain.

Please know that this letter is not directed at you personally but it does point to my frustration of the entire situation. What would happen if US 58 had the same issue? Or what would happen if this situation would have happened in a more affluent County? Would the treatment be quicker?

We are standing ready to assist, however we are ready to fight as well. Please give us a positive direction so we can work with VDOT: instead of against VDOT. I look forward to a full discussion and update as we move forward.

Sincerely,



Gary Larowe  
County Administrator of Carroll County

CC:

Carroll County Board of Supervisors  
Joe Roma – Emergency Services Director  
Richard Slate – IDA Chair  
Dr. Greg Smith – Superintendent Carroll County Schools  
Delegate Ward Armstrong  
Delegate Bill Carrico  
Senator Roscoe Reynolds