



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Western Virginia Water Authority and the Counties of Franklin and Roanoke Break Ground for the U.S. 220 Water Line Project

ROANOKE, VA – The Counties of Franklin and Roanoke and the Western Virginia Water Authority (Authority) broke ground today on a joint water line project in the U.S. Route 220 corridor. This new 12-inch water line will provide a regional service that will enhance the quality of life for customers as well as the regional community.

This project is an excellent example of how working together can benefit a region. As a result of a partnership between Roanoke and Franklin counties and the Western Virginia Water Authority, residents and businesses along the U.S. Route 220 corridor will have access to the same high quality of public water and fire protection that other residents in the Authority's service area currently enjoy. The economic development potential of the land in this transportation corridor will also be optimized.

The partnership calls for the Authority to design, manage construction and maintain the new waterline. Debt service on the bonds issued by the Authority for this project will be repaid by Franklin and Roanoke counties. These costs will be primarily recouped from availability fees paid for by developers.

The Authority's water lines currently conclude near the Sun Crest Heights Subdivision just south of Kingery's store in the Clearbrook area of Roanoke County. This project involves extending this line approximately 65,000 feet to the Wirtz Plateau area in Franklin County, placing the lines in the existing VDOT right-of-way along Route 220 South. The construction will be completed in multiple phases with the entire project taking 18-24 months to complete. The initial phase of construction, expected to begin the end of June, 2008, has been awarded to A.J. Conner General Contractor, Inc. of Roanoke through a competitive bid process.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on Wednesday, June 11 at 10 a.m. at Red Hill Baptist Church, located at 6251 Franklin Road.

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