



The City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the Public Works Department

STREET MAINTENANCE
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
REFUSE/ RECYCLING
CENTRAL STORES

Memorandum

To: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager
From: Thomas Hartman, PE, Assistant Director of Public Works
CC: Jim Baker, Anne Lewis
Date: November 24, 2015
**Re: Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement
Design Public Hearing Summary**

On October 15, 2015 the City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works (DPW) hosted a Design Public Hearing (DPH) for the Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement Project. The purpose of this DPH was to inform Citizens of the upcoming project and to gather their comments regarding the project and its proposed impacts. The DPH was an open house style format, which allows for direct interaction between the Citizens, DPW staff, and McCormick Taylor (City's Engineering Consultant).

Public comment for this project was open until October 28, 2015 and Citizens could email, call, or write to DPW with their comments and suggestions. Following the end of the public comment period McCormick Taylor prepared the attached report, which summarizes the comments that were received.

As shown in the attached report 6 Citizens attended the 2-hour DPH, and a total of 5 comments were received.

All five (5) comments received from the DPH were supportive of the bridge replacement project, with all comments sharing a common concern of the required road closure and proposed detour route. The citizens were representatives of educational and commercial businesses in the area that would be impacted by the proposed road closure and required detour.

From the educational perspective the Massanutten Technical Center (MTC) representative expressed a concern with the proposed detour route, and how they felt signal timing modifications may be needed at the Pleasant Valley Road and Early Road intersection. This is due to students that are bused from Spotswood and East Rockingham High Schools are on a tight timeframe for the trips to and from MTC. MTC has concerns with the existing signal not providing sufficient green time to allow the busses to clear out in one (1) cycle, which is needed in order for the students to meet their schedule. DPW staff has reviewed this concern and we will incorporate a modified signal timing plan at this intersection during the detour to address this concern.

From the commercial business perspective Rocco Building Supply and the Interchange Group expressed concerns with truck traffic being directed to other intersections in the area due to the planned detour. They requested that we study the impacts of this detour and suggested improvements at those

intersections if our study indicated that temporary improvements were needed. Finally, they had concerns with notifying “out of the area” truck drivers that make routine deliveries to their business about the detour and how to access their businesses during this time period.

DPW staff has reviewed all received comments from this DPH and can offer the following statements concerning those comments:

- The signal timing at the Pleasant Valley Road / Early Road intersection will be modified to allow for sufficient green time to allow bus traffic to make the required left turn and remain as close to schedule as possible.
- DPW has conducted traffic counts in this area and is in the process of working with VDOT to determine, if any temporary modifications are needed in this area due to the planned detour.
- DPW has revised the planned detour route due to the comments, and instead of directing traffic to Cottontail Trail, the detour will take traffic to intersection of Early Road and Cecil Wampler Road. This will eliminate a left turn and the Early Road / Cecil Wampler Road intersection provides for a safer location to make the required left turn.
- DPW will include temporary detour signage at the businesses located along the detour notifying traffic of the detour and how to navigate towards I-81 via the detour.
- DPW will work with the local businesses in developing a flier that they can distribute to their customers, which will inform them of the detour as well as providing other project information.

Currently, the project is funded at \$1.5 million (\$750,000 VDOT Revenue Sharing, \$750,000 Local Match), with a Design fee of \$239,000. The remaining available funding will allow DPW to complete right of way acquisition, utility relocation, and construction of the project. The current schedule for this project is to begin right of way acquisition this winter, utility relocation winter and early spring, with construction beginning in the spring of 2016.

At this time the DPW is seeking City Council adoption of the Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement Project alignment as shown in the DPH documents. By adopting this alignment it will allow DPW to begin to negotiate the needed fee simple right of way and easements needed for this project.

The City With The Planned Future