



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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STREET MAINTENANCE
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
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CENTRAL STORES
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

TO: Eric D. Campbell, City Manager
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, LEED AP, Director of Public Works
DATE: May 28, 2019
RE: Port Republic Road Safety and Operations Study

Summary: The Department of Public Works will provide a presentation for the recently completed Port Republic Road Safety and Operations Study.

Background: A team comprised of members from the Harrisonburg Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO), Department of Public Works, Department of Public Transportation (HDPT), and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) identified the need to evaluate Port Republic Road for improved safety and operations within the City of Harrisonburg. Port Republic Road is a major urban arterial, providing access to commercial and residential areas of the City of Harrisonburg as well as the primary entrance into the James Madison University (JMU) campus. The project corridor spans from the intersection of Port Republic Road and South Main Street to the intersection of Port Republic Road and Devon Lane as shown the attached map. Closely spaced intersections, including the I-81 ramp interchange ramps, create congestion and safety concerns.

The purpose of this study was to identify improvements that should improve transportation safety and operations within the Port Republic Corridor through the study area.

The study area is along Port Republic Road from South Main Street to Devon Lane and is approximately one (1) mile in length. Ten (10) intersections located along the corridor were chosen for the study as shown in the attached map. Port Republic Road is classified as a major urban arterial and provides access to commercial and residential areas of the City of Harrisonburg as well as serves as the primary access onto the JMU Campus. Population growth and expansion of the JMU campus and student housing has significantly increased motor vehicle traffic as well as bicycle and pedestrian traffic over the past few years.

The intersections included in the study are:

- Port Republic Road and South Main Street;
- Port Republic Road and Hillcrest Drive;
- Port Republic Road and Crawford Avenue;
- Port Republic Road and Bluestone Drive/Hillside Avenue;
- Port Republic Road and Southbound I-81 Ramps;
- Port Republic Road and Northbound I-81 Ramps;
- Port Republic Road and Forest Hill Road;
- Port Republic Road and Hunters Road;
- Port Republic Road and Bradley Drive; and,
- Port Republic Road and Devon Lane.

The study area includes six (6) signalized intersections and four (4) unsignalized intersections. The attached study area map displays the study intersections and the street network study area map.

The attached final report identifies recommendations for improvements along that corridor that are organized into four (4) categories; traffic control measures, geometric change, access management, and miscellaneous.

This presentation includes recommendations from Public Works on improvements that are planned to be incorporated this summer, as well as improvements that will require VDOT grants to accomplish.

Key Issues: Operational and safety improvements along this segment of Port Republic Road.

Environmental Impact: NA.

Fiscal Impact: Proposed improvements for this summer can be accomplished with budgeted funds. Projects requiring grant funding will be discussed prior to the grant applications being submitted.

Prior Actions: None.

Alternatives: None.

Community Engagement: Public Meeting on March 20, 2019.

Recommendation: Proceed with improvements recommended for this summer.

Attachments: Study Area Map, Port Republic Road Safety and Operations Study (Report), and Council Presentation.

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

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