



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: June 10, 2015
Re: Mt Clinton Pike Road Improvements – Public Hearing Summary

On May 13, 2015 the City of Harrisonburg Department of Public Works (DPW) hosted a Design Public Hearing (DPH) for the Mt Clinton Pike Road Improvement 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 May 23, 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 48 Citizens attended the 2-hour DPH, and a total of 12 comments were received.

A majority of the comments were positive in nature. Citizens thought that the roundabout was a good idea, and would improve intersection safety for both vehicles and pedestrians. They are in favor of the improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities provided with the project (i.e. shared use path and sidewalk).

Concerns expressed were impacts to the existing Gas Station at the intersection of Chicago and Mt Clinton Pike, mid-block crossing limitations as it relates to Gift and Thrift and the existing EMU/EMHS ball fields, intersection capacity at Mt Clinton Pike and Virginia Avenue, and extension of the project further west to the City limits.

In regards to the concerns DPW offers the following comments. The property owner of the Gas Station has been in talks with DPW for nearly a year and is fully aware of the impacts. The project will not require a total-take of the property; however the street frontage will be impacted. DPW is currently evaluating the safety concerns associated with a mid-block crossing of this street at Gift and Thrift. The intersection of Mt Clinton Pike and Virginia Avenue is a challenge due to existing HEC power poles to the south, and flood plain conflicts to the north. DPW has provided expanded turn lane storage to provide more capacity at this leg of the intersection. The improvements further west of this project are currently included in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Currently, the project is funded at \$1.5 million (\$750,000 VDOT Revenue Sharing, \$750,000 Local Match), with a Design fee of \$538,000. The remaining available funding will not complete the right of way and utility relocation phase, but it is sufficient for DPW to begin right of way and easement negotiations. At a later date DPW will seek the additional funding required to complete the project, which is currently estimated at an additional \$500,000 for right of way and utility relocation, and \$4 million for construction.

At this time the DPW is seeking City Council adoption of the Mt Clinton Pike Road Improvement 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. It should be noted that DPW plans to work with the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) during the negotiations with EMU, as DPU is also working EMU for right of way and easements associated with the new Park View Water Tank project.