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Design Public Hearing

Route 460 (Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike) and Route 668 (Blackwater Road) Intersection Improvements Bedford County

Thursday, June 29, 2023, 5 – 7 p.m.
New London Academy
1133 Academy Lane
Forest, VA 24551

Design Public Hearing

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) design public hearing on improvements to the Route 460 (Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike) and Route 668 (Blackwater Road) intersection in Bedford County. The hearing will be held in an ‘open-house’ format.

This design public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project. VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them.

VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this meeting and your input is encouraged.

All oral and written comments received on this project will be reviewed by VDOT personnel and will be available for review by citizens and other interested parties.

Project Overview



Intersection of Route 460 (Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike) and Route 668 (Blackwater Road).

Anticipated Cost – \$6.3 million

Purpose – To improve safety and traffic flow

From – 0.323 miles west of Route 668

To – 0.579 miles east of Route 668

Total length – 0.347 mile

Improvements

- Convert the intersection to a restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT)
- Relocate the existing crossover east of the intersection approximately 500 feet further east and extend the existing turn lane to help accommodate U-turns.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to improve safety and traffic flow by converting the intersection at Route 460 (Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike) and Route 668 (Blackwater Road) to a restricted crossing U-turn (RCUT). This project is intended to reduce rear end collisions and angle crashes.

An RCUT is an innovative intersection that would eliminate left turns from northbound Route 668 onto westbound Route 460. Motorists who currently turn left onto Route 460 would make right turns and proceed to make a U-turn.

To the east of the intersection, the existing crossover would be relocated approximately 500 feet further east and the existing turn lane extended to help accommodate U-turns.

The traffic volume at this intersection does not meet the criteria to install a traffic signal. As of 2021, the average annual traffic daily count was

18,788 vehicles on Route 460. As of 2019, the average annual traffic daily count was 430 vehicles on Blackwater Road.

The design of this project is in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, stormwater regulations and the annual stormwater management standards and specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Potential impacts to the flood plains will be evaluated and addressed on this project.

The construction of this project will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and the Virginia Department of Soil and Water conservation regulations. Also, during construction, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust and erosion control.

Project Graphic



Estimated Project Cost

Available Funding: \$6.3 million

Preliminary Engineering: \$905,000
Right of Way and Utilities: \$526,000
Construction: \$4.9 million

These costs are subject to change because development of the project is in its early design stages. The project will be funded using state and federal funds.

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

If you need more information in regard to your civil rights on this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed on the back of this brochure.

Right of Way

As VDOT further develops and finalizes this project, additional easements for utility relocation may be required beyond the proposed right of way shown on the public hearing plans.

Construction will not require the displacement of any families, businesses or non-profit organizations.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure entitled "Right of Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants. Copies of this brochure are available here from a VDOT right of way agent.

After this meeting, information regarding right of way may be obtained from the right of way contact listed on the back of this brochure.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed for the project:

Public Hearing – Summer 2023
Advertise for Construction Bids – Late 2024
Construction Begins – Spring 2025
Construction Completed – Late 2025

Environmental Review

VDOT's Salem District Environmental Office has performed environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity; to provide natural and historic resource agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development; and to identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a NEPA document in the form of a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc.

The project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as part of environmental review and approval processes required throughout project development and construction. All required environmental clearances will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT's specifications and standard best management practices will protect the environment during construction.

The NEPA document and the results of other environmental studies are available at today's meeting. Representatives from VDOT's Environmental Section are available to discuss this information and to answer questions.

Get Involved

Ten days after this public hearing, the public comment period will close on **July 9, 2023**.

A comment sheet is enclosed and can be submitted at tonight's hearing or by mail to VDOT.

Comments also can be emailed to Eli.Mannon@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference "Route 460 at Blackwater Road Public Comment" in the subject heading.

Information must be postmarked, e-mailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of tonight's hearing in order to be included in the hearing record.

VDOT representatives will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the hearing. Public hearing information, including the hearing summary, will be available for review at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153.

After all comments have been addressed, the information received as a result of this hearing will be presented to VDOT's Chief Engineer or designee for consideration.

If approval of the major design features is received for this project, it will move forward to the final design phase.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Eli Mannon, P.E.	Project Manager <i>Location and Design</i>	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5353
Terry Hutchinson	Aquisition Manager <i>Right of Way</i>	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5367
Jason Bond	Communications Manager <i>Office of Communications</i>	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5493