



# I-95 Access Study Environmental Assessment

Welcome to the

## CITIZEN INFORMATION MEETING

**Welcome!** Thank you for attending tonight's Public Scoping Meeting for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the I-95 Access Study. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is undertaking environmental studies for transportation improvements to improve traffic conditions on I-95 between and within the Route 3 and U.S. Route 17 interchange areas; facilitate movement between I-95 and the key commercial areas in Fredericksburg; and accommodate weekday peak period commuter traffic flows between I-95 and the residential communities in Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties.

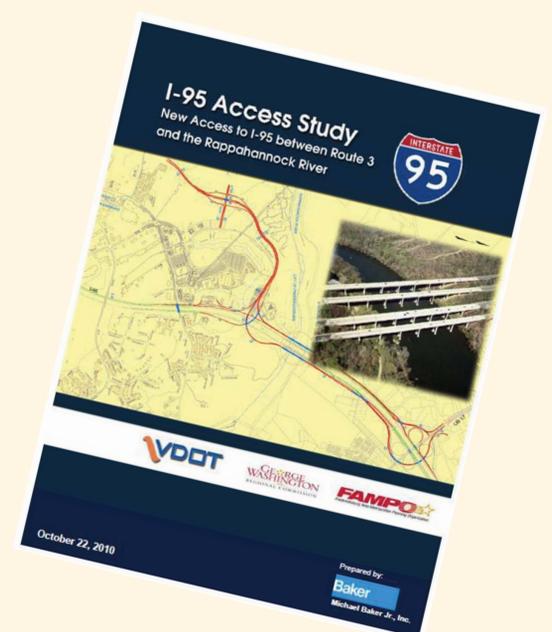
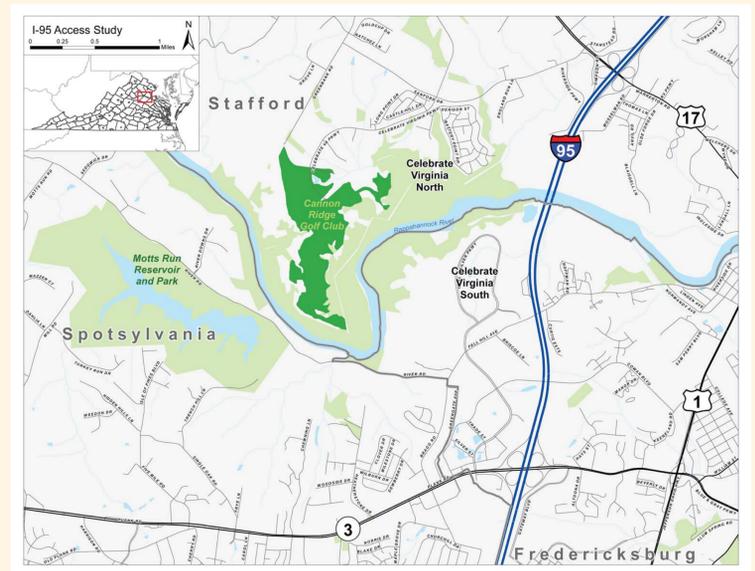
### The goals of this meeting are:

- To obtain your input on issues that should be considered in the EA.
- To share information that is available at this early stage of the study.

Please take the time to examine the information provided, ask as many questions as you wish, and give us your comments and suggestions. Your input is needed as part of the environmental review process and it is important.

### Background and Study Intent

- The George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) and VDOT completed the I-95 Access Study and Interchange Justification Report in 2010. The study identified transportation needs and conducted an alternatives analysis to identify options to improve traffic conditions on Route 3 and between I-95 and key residential and commercial areas in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties, while minimizing impacts and cost.
- During this study, the study team will identify the transportation needs, evaluate alternatives to meet those needs, and assess potential environmental impacts.
- The findings of the environmental study will be documented in an EA, which is a required step for federal approval before improvements can be considered.



**Thank you for attending!**



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## PURPOSE AND NEED

### Current and Future Transportation Problems:

- The George Washington Region population has increased by over 400 percent since 1960 and it is expected to nearly double by 2035. This growth has led to increased traffic volumes and congestion on the existing roadway network.
- I-95 between Route 3 and Route 17 experiences recurring congestion northbound in the morning and southbound in the evening, with poor levels of service on the mainline, at ramp junctions, and within the I-95/Route 17 northbound collector-distributor roadway.
- High traffic volumes on Route 3 between Gordon Road and I-95 and on Route 17 on either side of the I-95 interchange during the AM and PM peak hours result in congestion and failing conditions at intersections.
- Rear-end and sideswipe collisions accounted for 70% of the total crashes that occurred within the study area between 2005 and 2008, which can be attributed to capacity or geometric deficiencies along the roadway, and the following three segments experience crash rates above the statewide average for the same roadway type.
  - I-95 within the Route 3 interchange area
  - Route 3 between Gateway Boulevard and Carl D. Silver Parkway
  - Route 17 between Stanstead Road/Sanford Drive and Short Street

### Purpose:

The anticipated purpose of the project is to improve traffic conditions on I-95 between and within the Route 3 and U.S. Route 17 interchanges and increase access between I-95 and key residential and commercial areas in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania and Stafford Counties.

### Need:

The current roadway capacity and the existing and forecast travel demand are among the factors to be included in defining and documenting the transportation needs to be addressed by the project.





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## IMPROVEMENT ALTERNATIVES

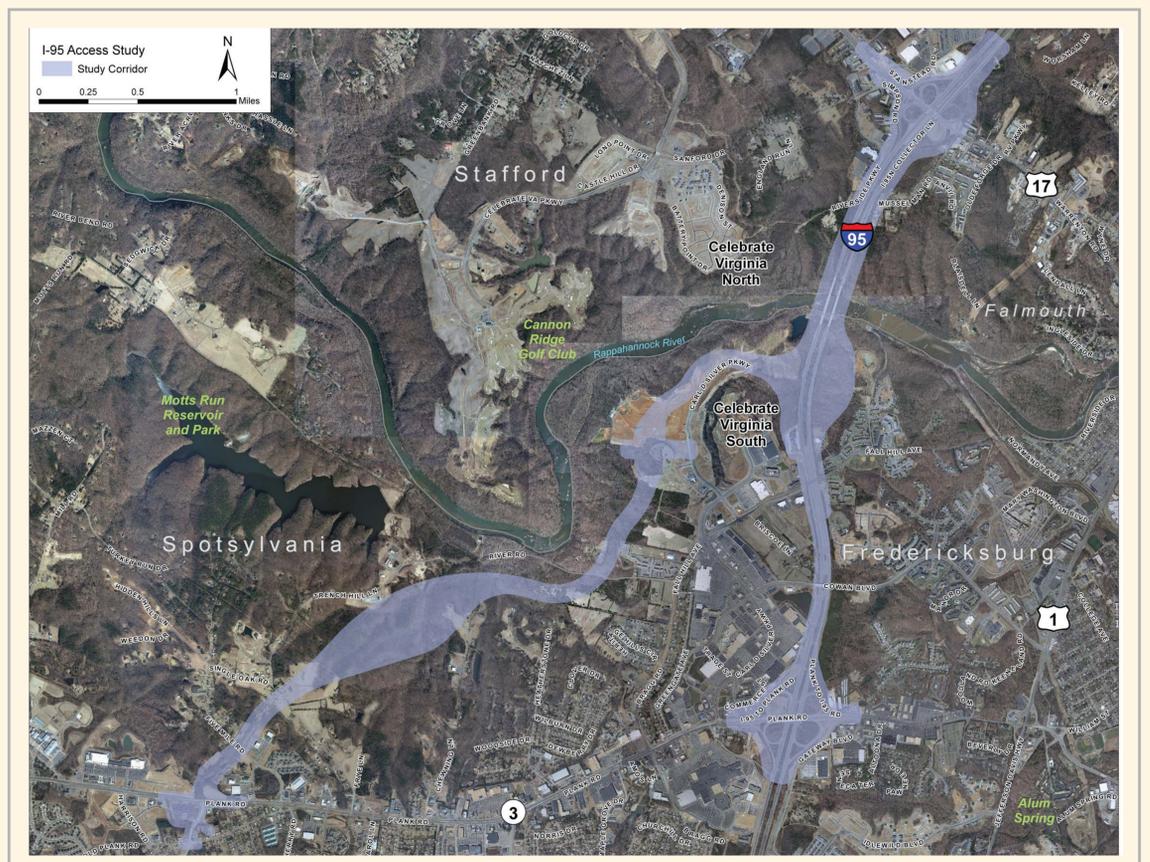
During this stage, the study team will examine alternatives that were developed in the I-95 Access Study, which included the following:

- No-Build Alternative
- Transportation System Management (TSM)/Transportation Demand Management (TDM)
- Local Street Network Improvements
- Improvements to Existing I-95 Interchanges at Route 3 and Route 17
- Build Alternatives, including Tolling Options

The study corridor highlighted below reflects the general alignment of the preferred alternative identified in the I-95 Access Study completed in 2010. The study corridor represents improvements on I-95 between and within the Route 3 and U.S. Route 17 interchanges and a new four to six-lane limited access connector road that would extend approximately four miles and include the following new interchanges:

1. On I-95 between the rest area and the Rappahannock River;
2. On the new connector road near the Carl D. Silver Parkway and Central Park/Celebrate Virginia commercial developments; and
3. At Route 3 in the vicinity of Gordon Road.

Improvements are proposed at the I-95/U.S. Route 17 and I-95/Route 3 interchanges, including new auxiliary/collector-distributor (CD) roads on I-95 linking the two existing interchanges and the proposed new interchange. The proposed CD roads would require two new bridges, one in each direction, over the Rappahannock River parallel to the existing structures.





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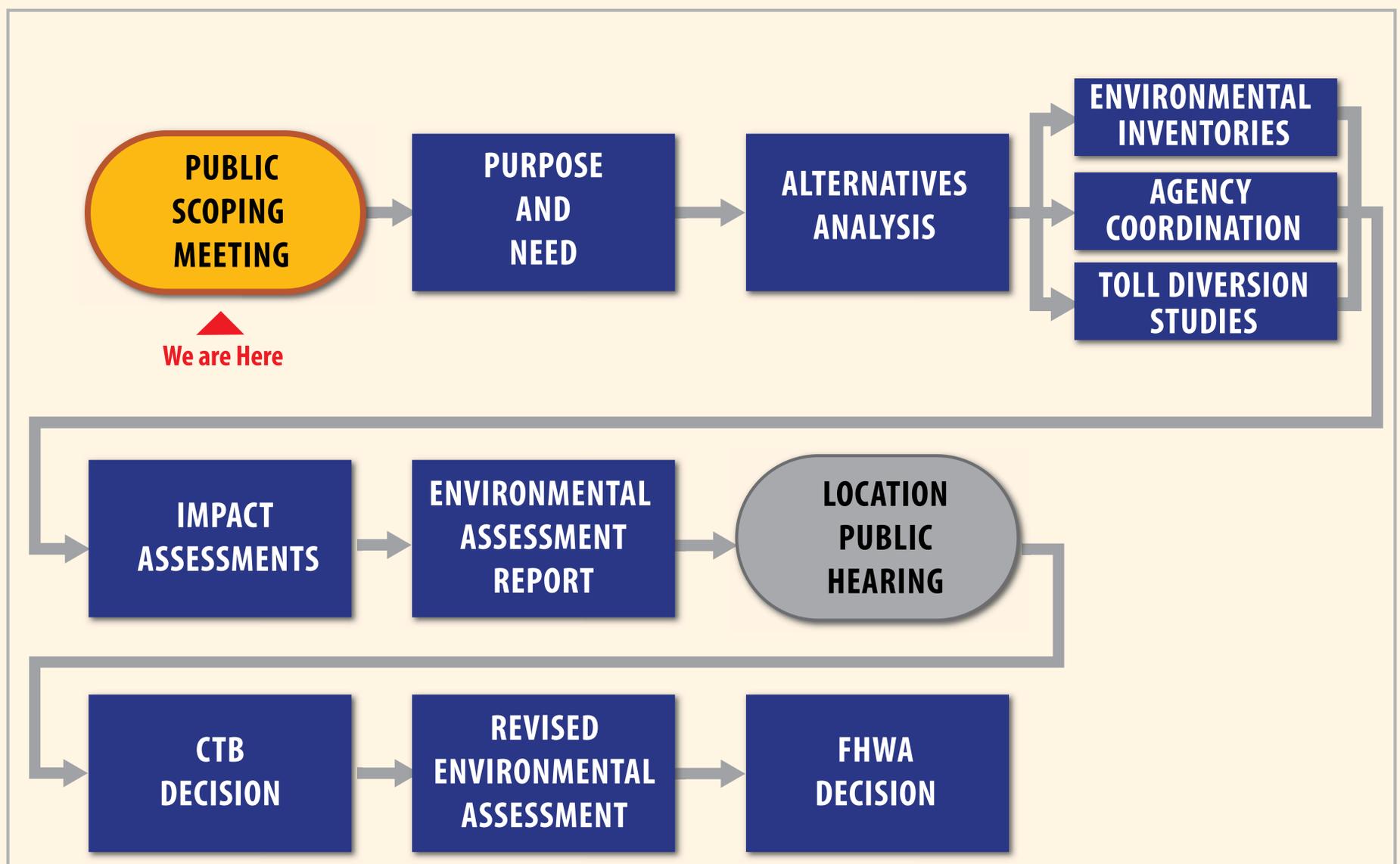
## LOCATION STUDY PROCESS

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires consideration of potential environmental consequences of transportation improvements, documentation of the analyses, and making the information available to the public for comment before a decision is made.

Tonight's meeting is a critical element in the study's initial scoping process whereby public input is gathered to help identify viable courses of action for meeting the identified travel needs and recognize the area's environmental context.

During this stage, we welcome your initial input on these important study elements:

- **Purpose and Need:** Transportation problem(s) to be solved
- **Alternatives:** Ideas for resolving transportation problem(s)
- **Environment:** Important natural, cultural, and human environmental considerations



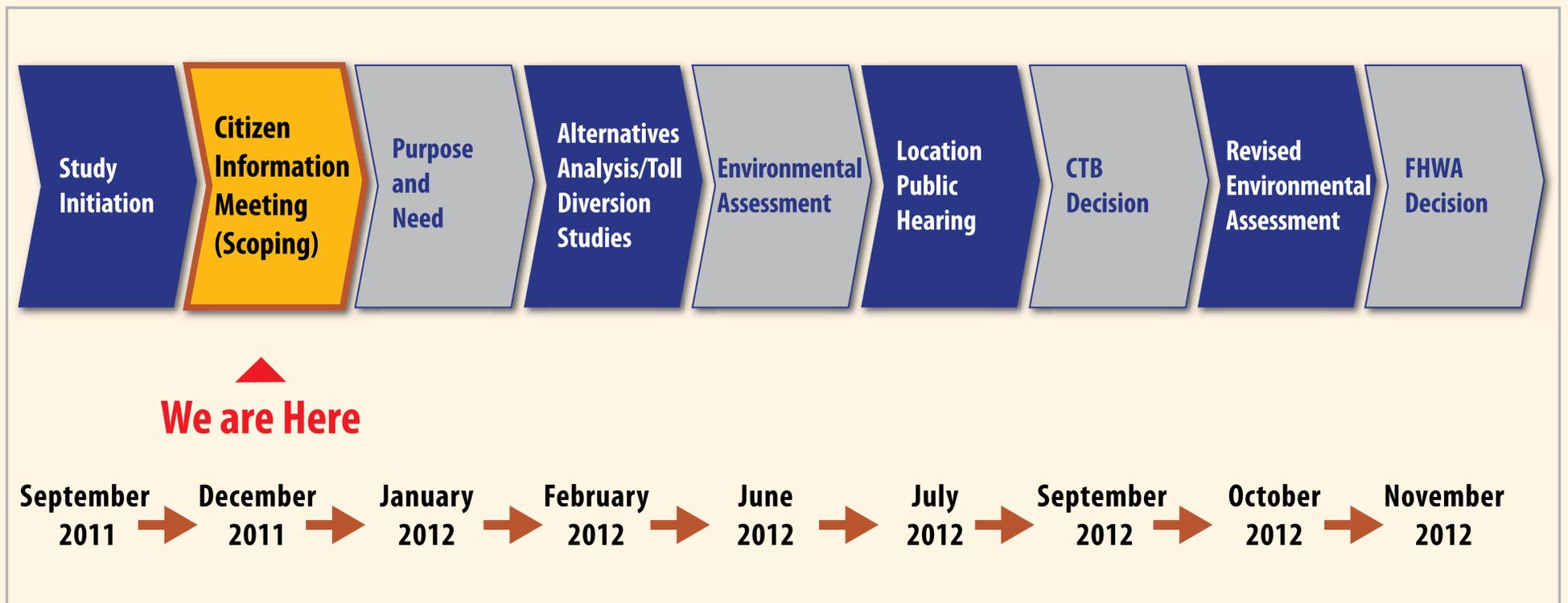




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## STUDY SCHEDULE AND NEXT STEPS

### Study Schedule



### Next Steps in Study Process

- Study team review of public comments.
- Evaluation of suggestions and concerns.
- Finalize purpose and need.
- Evaluation of alternatives and assessment of environmental impacts.
- Preparation of Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Revision of EA, as appropriate, to reflect changes or new information resulting from comments received on the EA.

### For Project Updates

Please visit the project website:

[http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/fredericksburg/interstate\\_95\\_access\\_study.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/fredericksburg/interstate_95_access_study.asp)



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## PUBLIC COMMENTS

### Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to review the materials presented at this public meeting. Your comments are valuable and greatly appreciated. VDOT will carefully consider all comments received at this meeting and during the comment period.

Written comments must be postmarked or sent electronically **no later than December 26, 2011** and may be submitted in three ways:

#### ■ At this Meeting:

Put written comments in the designated box or make a verbal comment to the Verbatim Recorder.



#### ■ By Mail:

Submit written comments to:

**Mr. Nicholas Nies**  
**Virginia Department of Transportation**  
1201 E. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219



#### ■ By E-mail:

Send e-mails to: [Fredericksburginfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Fredericksburginfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

Please reference

“I-95 Access Study Citizen Information Meeting Comment”  
in the subject line.



*All comments submitted at this meeting and during the comment period will be incorporated in the meeting record, which is available for public review upon request.*