

# Route 501 over the James River

From Route 501 in Bedford County  
To Route 130 in Amherst County



Summer 2012

## WELCOME and Thank You for Your Interest

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is studying the replacement of the Route 501 Bridge over the James River (referred to as the Snowden Bridge). The purpose of this meeting is to share with you the findings of the Environmental Assessment (EA), to receive your comments and answer questions about those findings and recommendation for a decision regarding the replacement of the Route 501 bridge.

### Project Purpose and Need:

The Snowden Bridge was originally constructed in 1921 and is functionally obsolete\*. The existing bridge carries two 12-foot roadway lanes and has no shoulders and no sidewalks. This is inconsistent with current VDOT standards, which call for a 44-foot wide bridge deck. The current width does not accommodate bicycles or pedestrians, or provide an emergency pull-off area. The roadway approaches to Snowden Bridge also have geometric deficiencies such as tight turning radii and horizontal and vertical alignments that are

sub-standard south of the existing bridge. The existing bridge is classified as structurally deficient\*\* based on routine inspections. The Snowden Bridge has deficiencies including section loss, corrosion holes in the main girders, and cracked piers and abutments.

### Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative would be built to address current roadway and structural standards, and would address the structural, functional and roadway deficiencies. Unlike alternatives that would replace the Route 501 bridge at its existing location, the Preferred Alternative would not require detours or closures of the existing bridge during construction of the new bridge. The new bridge would contain a 12-foot travel lane and 10 feet of paved shoulder in each direction. The improved intersection of Route 501 and Route 130 would include turn lanes and improved sight distances.

\* **functionally obsolete** – A roadway or bridge with geometry (number of lanes, shoulders, sight distances) that no longer meets the current criteria.

\*\* **structurally deficient** – Bridge with deteriorating elements, which may require increased repairs or weight restrictions.

## Public Hearing

**Monday, June 4th, 2012**

**5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Big Island Elementary School  
1114 School Days Road | Big Island, VA 24526

### Project Information

Angel Deem – VDOT Environmental Project Manager  
(804) 371-6756

Brian Casto – VDOT Design Project Manager  
(434) 947-6559

Main Phone: (800) 367-7623

For those unable to attend, please visit the web site for meeting materials and project information. [http://virginiadot.org/projects/lynchburg/route\\_501\\_bridge\\_over\\_james\\_river\\_at\\_snowden.asp](http://virginiadot.org/projects/lynchburg/route_501_bridge_over_james_river_at_snowden.asp)

Thank you for contributing to the study.

## SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES



# Finding of the Environmental Assessment

The EA documents the potential impacts of the Route 501 Bridge on the proposed alignment over the James River, as shown on the opposite page. Table 1 shows the potential impacts of the Preferred Alternative in comparison to the No-Build Alternative.

It is important to note that the impacts shown on the table are based on a 200-foot wide study corridor, which is larger than would be required for the construction of the project. As the project moves into design impacts would likely be reduced.

## National Forest Impacts Avoided:

Through detailed discussions with the U.S. Forest Service, VDOT and FHWA have agreed to avoid impacts to the Forest Service property, which includes a Wilderness Study Area and an Inventoried Roadless Area.

**Table 1: Summary of Impacts**

Category	Impacts (Approximate)	
	No Build Alt.	Preferred Alt.
Residential Displacements (No.)	0	1*
Residential Property (acres)	0	4
Businesses Displaced (No.)	0	0
Community Facilities (No.)	0	0
Forest Service Land (acres)	0	0
Environmental Justice Populations (No.)	0	0
Farmland or Farmland Soils (acres)	0	0
Historic Properties (No.)	0	0
Waters of the U.S. (linear feet bridged)	0	1,000
Wetlands (acres)	0	0
Forest (acres)	0	10
Floodplains (acres filled/acres cleared)	0	0.5 / 6
Threatened and Endangered Species (No.)	0	0
Hazardous Materials Sites Impacted (No.)	0	0
Noise (No. of Receptors Impacted)	0	0
Section 4(f) Properties (No.)	0	0

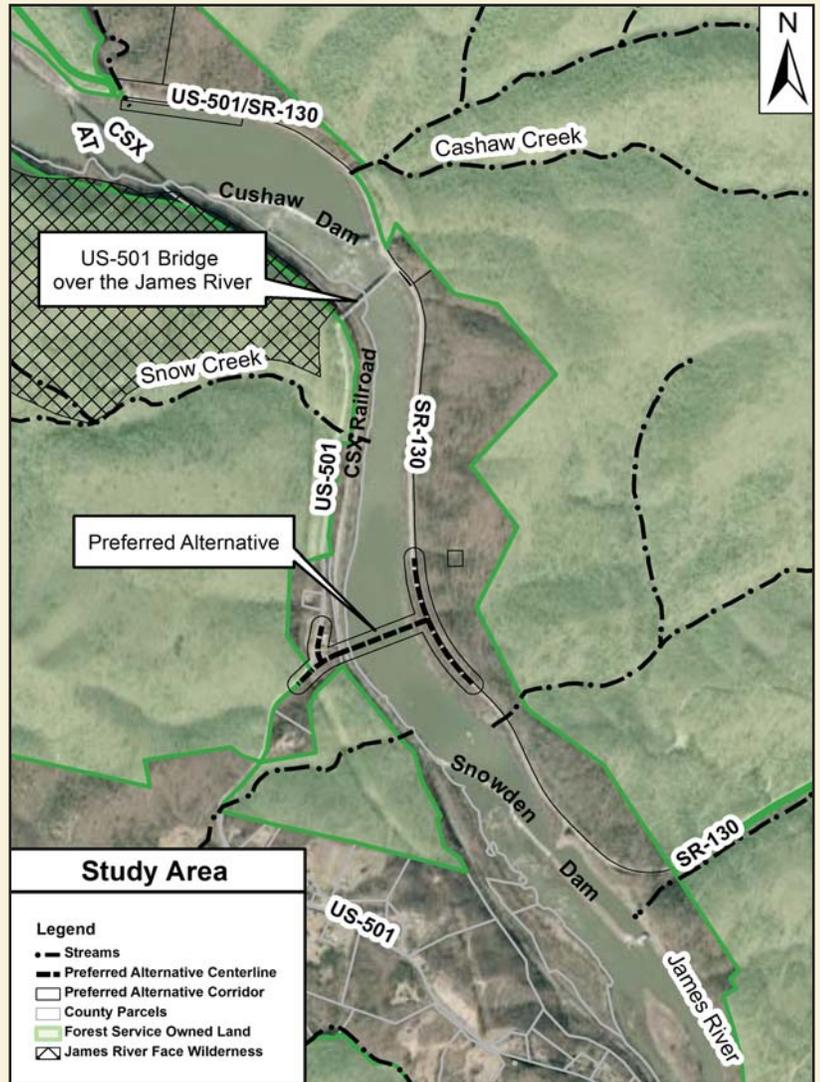
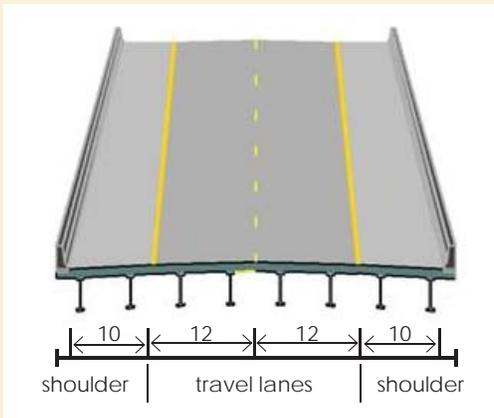
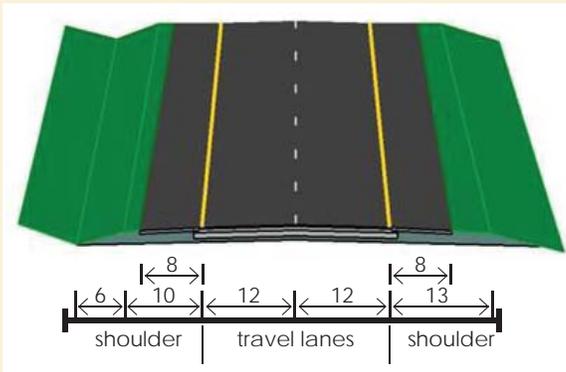
\*Residence is abandoned



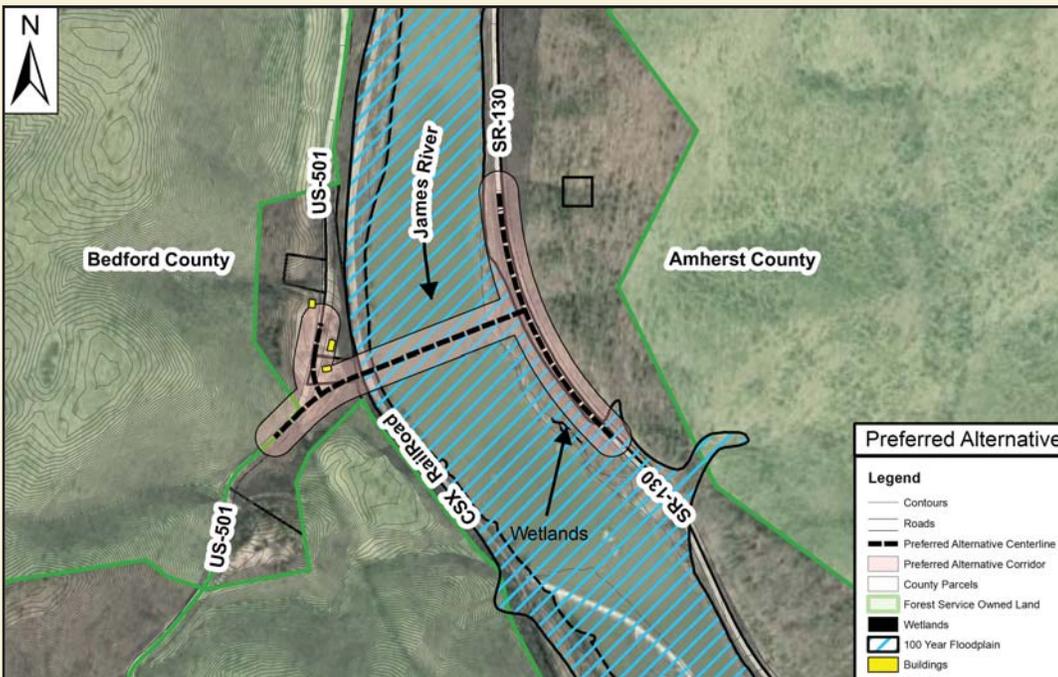
Current structure from Route 130 in Amherst County looking across the bridge into Bedford County.

# Study Area

## Typical Sections



## Preferred Alternative



# Next Steps for Route 501 Bridge

Your input is important. VDOT and FHWA would like to hear any comments you have about this project. At tonight's hearing, you can discuss your concerns with members of the Study Team and submit formal written comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) or the project in general. If you prefer, you may also provide oral comments at tonight's hearing.

The Study Team will review and evaluate the comments provided to us tonight and during the comment period. The comments, along with other information developed during the study, will then be forwarded to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) for consideration in reaching a decision. Following the public availability period, the EA will be revised as appropriate to reflect changes in the proposed action or mitigation measures resulting from comments received on the EA or at the public hearing. It will then be submitted to FHWA, along

with a copy of the public hearing transcript, the CTB's recommendation, and a request that a final decision be made by FHWA.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the Environmental Assessment.

Comments will be collected until **June 20, 2012** and can be submitted as follows:

- **Comment Form:** Drop a completed comment form into the Comment Box before you leave tonight.
- **E-mail to:** [Angel.Deem@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Angel.Deem@VDOT.Virginia.gov) (please reference "Route 501 Bridge" in the subject line)
- **Mail to:** Angel Deem, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219

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c/o Angel Deem  
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Richmond, Virginia 23219