

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to improve safety and ease congestion along westbound Route 7 between West Market Street and Route 9 by constructing a truck climbing lane for slow-moving heavy vehicles. Currently, heavy trucks such as tractor-trailers, often slow traffic behind them as they travel the steep grade.

The project also features the following safety and operational improvements:

- Medians would be reconfigured to reduce turning movement conflicts, and some side street intersections would be modified.
- Two roundabouts would be constructed where the ramps to and from Route 7 meet Route 9 to improve traffic flow and reduce delay along Route 9.
- The W&OD Trail would be relocated through the Route 9 interchange to reduce the number of conflicts between the trail users and vehicles.
- A road segment would be constructed to complete the connection of neighborhoods along Beechnut Road.
- Fort Johnston Road would be extended to provide a connection to Alysheba Drive, Farm Market Road and Leeland Orchard Road.

- An eastbound turn lane would be built on West Market Street to the westbound Route 7 on-ramp.

VDOT is administering the project in cooperation with the Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County.

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. 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. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction. There are no flood plains or environmentally sensitive areas within the project limits.

Project Graphic



Estimated Project Cost

Total Cost:

Approximately \$39.5 million

Engineering of Roadway Plans:

\$4 million

Right of Way Acquisition and Utility Relocations

\$3.5 million

Construction

\$32 million

This cost is subject to change because development of the project is in early design stages. The project will be financed using federal funds.

Environmental Review

VDOT's Northern Virginia District Environmental Office has performed environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information and comments about natural and historic resources in the project vicinity.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a Categorical Exclusion has been prepared in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration regulations (23 CFR 771). In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation.

The project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate agencies as part of environmental review and approval processes throughout project development and 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.

Anticipated Schedule

Design hearing and comment period – May 2012

Design approval – Fall 2012

Right of Way Acquisition and Utilities Relocation – 2013

Construction – 2013

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed in this brochure.

Right of Way

The project will require acquisition of right-of-way and grading and drainage easements, but will not displace any families, businesses or non-profit organizations.

As we further develop and finalize the project, additional easements may be required beyond the proposed right of way shown on the public hearing plans. The property owners will be informed of the exact location of the easements during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure, "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.

Get Involved

Ten days after this public hearing (May 19, 2012), the public comment period will close.

Comments can be submitted in writing to **James Zeller, P.E.** at the address below. Email comments may be sent to meeting_comments@vdot.virginia.gov. Please include "Route 7 Truck Climbing Lane" in the subject line. Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT by **May 19, 2012** in order to be included in design public hearing record.

VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the public hearing. This information, including the hearing summary, will be available for review at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office located at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030 and at VDOT's Leesburg Residency Office located at 41 Lawson Road, SE, Leesburg, Virginia 20175.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: James Zeller, P.E. James.Zeller@VDOT.Virginia.gov	VDOT Loudoun Preliminary Engineering Manager	4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, Virginia 22030	703-259-3220
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Design Public Hearing

Route 7 Truck Climbing Lane and Operational Improvements Loudoun County

Wednesday, May 9, 2012, 6 - 8 p.m.
Loudoun County High School
415 Dry Mill Road SW
Leesburg, Virginia 20175

Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing on the proposed project to construct a truck climbing lane and improve traffic operations along Route 7 in Loudoun County.

This public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing agency, to give the department 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 verbal and written comments received on this project will be included in a transcript for review by VDOT personnel, the public and other interested parties.

VDOT staff will address questions and concerns raised as a result of this meeting before the project is presented to VDOT's chief engineer for consideration.

Project Overview



Westbound Route 7 at West Market Street

State Project ID – (NFO) 6007-053-133, P101, R201, C501 Federal Project ID STP-5401 (518)

Anticipated Cost

Approximately \$40 million

Purpose - Alleviate traffic congestion caused by heavy trucks along westbound Route 7 and improve traffic operations at various locations

From - West Market Street in Leesburg

To - Route 9 near Paeonian Springs

Total length – 2.6 miles

Improvements - Construction of a westbound truck climbing lane, turn lanes and roundabouts at the Route 9 interchange.



DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Route 7 Truck Climbing Lane & Operational Improvements in Loudoun County

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415 Dry Mill Road SW
Leesburg, Virginia 20175

COMMENT SHEET

State Project ID (NFO) 6007-053-133, P101, R201, C501 Federal Project ID STP-5401 (518)

All comments are subject to public disclosure.

Name (optional):

Address:

Email:

1. Will this project help pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular mobility needs for this segment of Route 7 and the intersecting roads?

2. Are there any concerns that you think have not been addressed? Yes _____ No _____

3. Please provide us with any suggestions that could improve the project.

4. Do you support this project? Yes _____ No _____

5. How did you hear about this meeting?

Newspaper _____ Direct Mail _____ VDOT Roadway signs _____ Other _____

Please leave this comment sheet at the designated location or mail your comments within 10 days (postmarked by May 19, 2012) to the addressee on the reverse side.

Fold Line

Postal Service
will not
deliver without
a stamp

Virginia Department of Transportation
James Zeller, P.E.
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

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