

INTRODUCTION

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is conducting Location Studies of U.S. Route 1 in Fairfax and Prince William counties. This 27.3-mile corridor has been divided into three studies, which are described below.

As part of this process, an Environmental Assessment is being developed for each study and will be available for review prior to Location Public Hearings planned for mid 2002.

HISTORY

Earlier studies have shown Route 1 suffers from a variety of problems because it has received only spot intersection and frontage improvements during the past 30 to 40 years. Adjacent structures, in some areas, have fallen into disrepair and become eyesores, contributing to economic decline. A Corridor Study conducted between 1994 and 1997 identified the following benefits to be gained by upgrading the highway:

- Increased capacity
- Improved safety
- Accommodation of economic redevelopment
- Improved pedestrian access/safety

The Virginia General Assembly mandated the current location studies in 1998 to build on information developed by the Corridor Study.



Tubes like these being installed on Route 1 help provide vital traffic count information.

STUDY DESCRIPTIONS

From south to north, the studies have been designated A, B and C. Starting at the Stafford County Line, Study A is the 12.2-mile stretch traversing all of Prince William County. Study B comprises the 4.3-mile middle section between the Occoquan River and Telegraph Road. To the north, Study C extends 10.8 miles from Telegraph Road to the Capital Beltway.

The studies are focused on widening U.S. 1 to six lanes except in a 4.5 mile stretch from Route 235 (North)/Buckman Road to the Capital Beltway, which would include eight lanes.

The roadway would be divided by a landscaped median with curb and gutter along each outer edge. A ten-foot-wide multi-use asphalt path would run along one side of the highway, with a six-foot sidewalk on the other.

A landscaped area would separate each of these from the edge of the main roadway. (Typical section drawings on the inside of this newsletter show detail).

The three Route 1 Location Studies will produce a set of alternatives, including transit upgrades, for transportation improvements in the corridor. The schedule calls for the studies to be completed in 2002 and their results forwarded to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for a decision on further action.

TRAFFIC STUDY

Collection and analysis of detailed traffic data has been a critical part of the Route 1 Location Studies. Data was gathered during the last quarter of 2000 and volumes have been projected to the year 2025.

The projections are dramatic.

The studies show that Route 1 traffic in Prince William County is expected to almost double by 2025. Average daily volume in



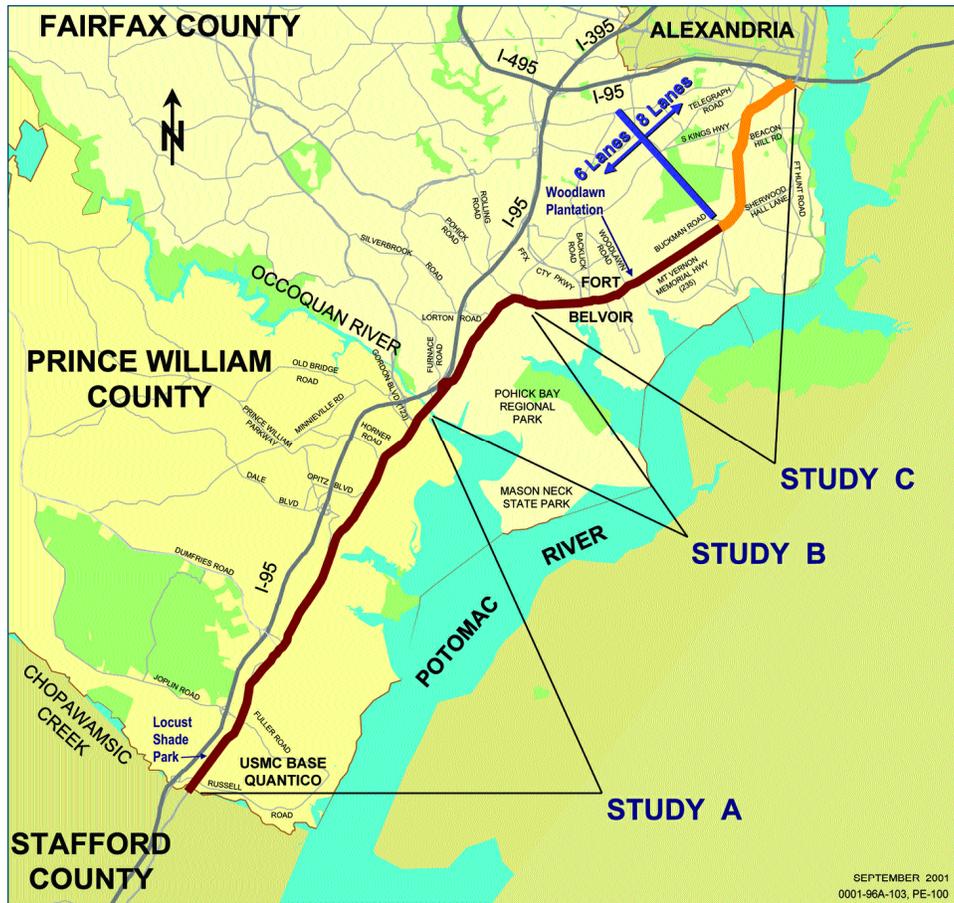
Route 1 runs through the Quantico Marine Corps Base, with this smaller version of the famed Iwo Jima Memorial near the main gate.

the 12.2-mile Prince William corridor is projected to reach more than 65,000 vehicles, a 94% increase from the current 33,611. According to this data, the sharpest rise will appear in the stretch between Dale Boulevard and Neabsco Mills/Blackburn, where daily volume will reach almost 85,000, an increase of 133% over the year 2000 level.

But the busiest spot will be just to the south, between Cardinal Drive and Neabsco Mills/Blackburn, where volume is projected to top 88,000, heaviest for any of the three study areas. That 88,000 figure represents a 115% increase over the year 2000 volume.

The projections show volume increases of up to 71% can be expected on Route 1 in Fairfax County by 2025. That maximum would happen just south of Pohick Road, where daily volume is projected to rise from 46,000 to 78,750. The traffic study indicates the busiest stretch of Route 1 in Fairfax County will be between South Kings Highway and Beacon Hill Road, with a daily volume of 82,200, up 39% from the year 2000 figure of 59,000. See graphs on back page.

ROUTE 1 LOCATION STUDIES



ROUTE 1 STEERING COMMITTEE

To ensure the Route 1 studies team is responsive to the needs and concerns of citizens along the corridor, the Virginia Department of Transportation convened a steering committee of key state and local officials from Fairfax and Prince William counties. The steering committee meets quarterly to provide oversight of and input on the location studies. Following is a list of steering committee members.

Delegate David Albo
Virginia House of Delegates

Delegate Kristen J. Amundson
Virginia House of Delegates

Supervisor Hilda Barg
Prince William Board of Supervisors

Delegate Thomas M. Bolvin
Virginia House of Delegates

Mayor Christopher Brown
Town of Dumfries

Supervisor Maureen Caddigan
Prince William Board of Supervisors

Chairman Sean T. Connaughton
Prince William Board of Supervisors

Thomas F. Farley
District Administrator
Northern Virginia District
Virginia Department of Transportation

Chairman Katherine Hanley
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Gerry Hyland
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor John D. Jenkins
Prince William Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Dana Kauffman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Senator Linda T. "Toddy" Puller
Virginia Senate

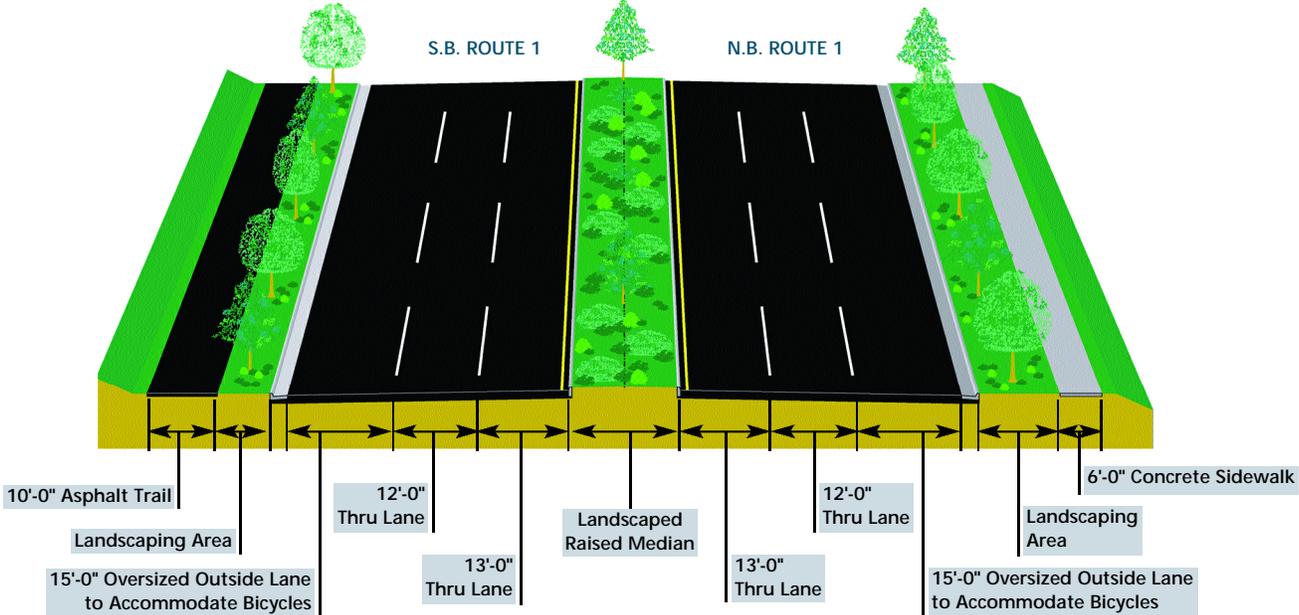
Delegate John Rollison III
Virginia House of Delegates

Colonel Kurt Weaver
Commander, Fort Belvoir

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT

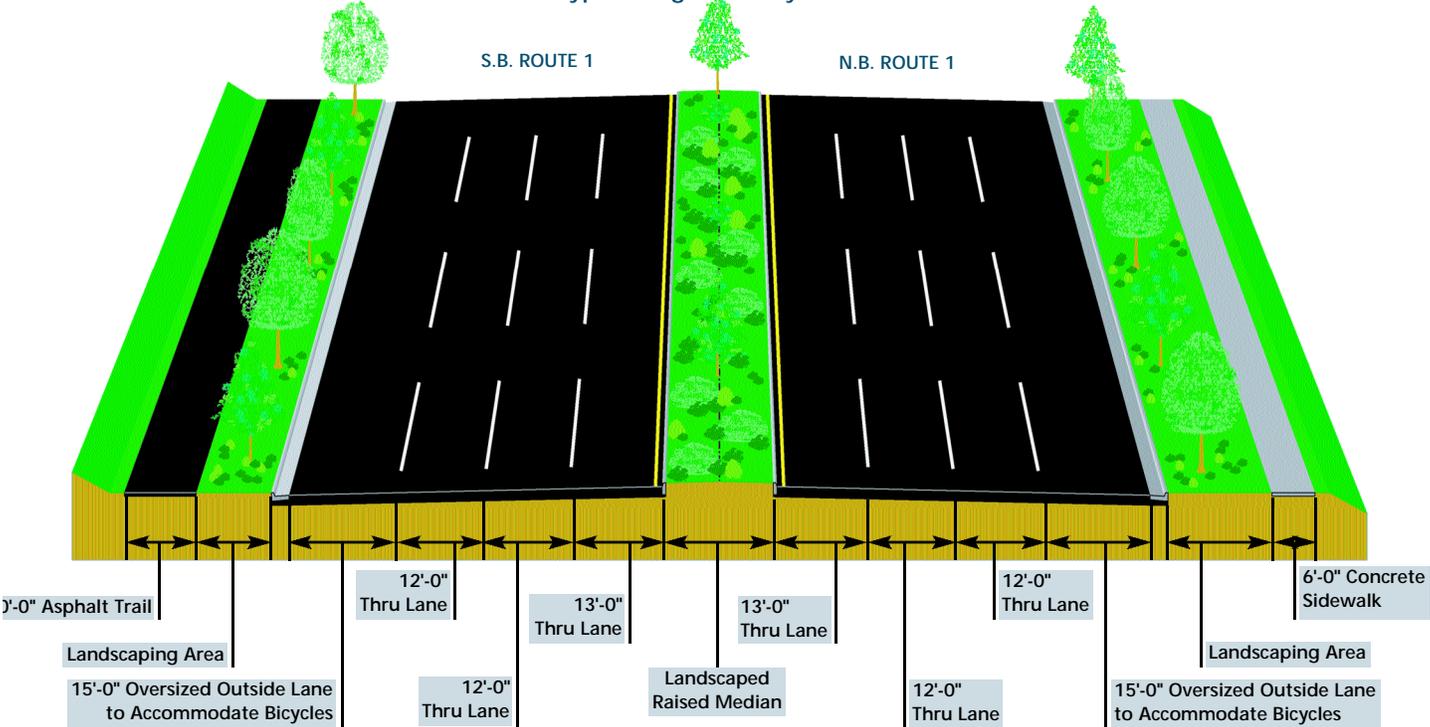
ROUTE 1 – TYPICAL SECTION – 6 LANE

Typical* Right-of-Way: 140' to 150'



ROUTE 1 – TYPICAL SECTION – 8 LANE

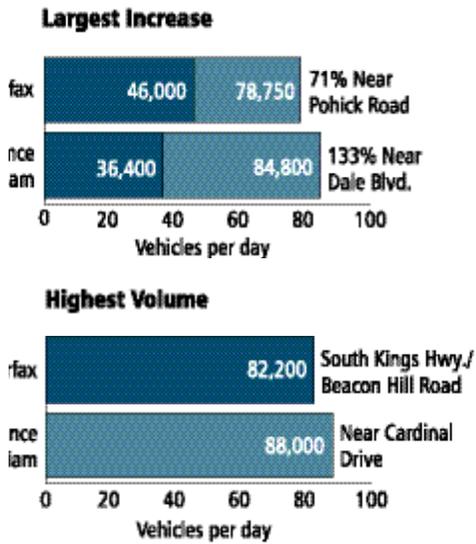
Typical* Right-of-Way: 170'



*Greater right-of-way may be required for turn lanes, at intersections, and in other special circumstances.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

YEAR 2025 PROJECTIONS BY ROUTE 1 LOCATION STUDIES



ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR BUS STUDY

The Route 1 Corridor Bus Study has been completed and is being used as input to the Route 1 Location Study. The transit recommendations from the study include increased frequency of bus service, the addition of Saturday, mid-day or express service on selected routes, a new route from Dumfries to Woodbridge, the addition of inter-county service, and a Virginia Railway Express to Ft. Belvoir connection. The study also emphasizes pedestrian safety and access to transit, as well as using technology to improve service in the corridor. An executive

summary can be found on NVTC's web site at www.cns.state.va.us/nvtc or you may call (703) 524-3322 for more information.

FUNDING

State funding allocations for the Route 1 Location Studies are being shared equitably between the Fairfax and Prince William County portions of the corridor to ensure completion of the entire 27.3-mile project.

NEXT STEPS: STUDY MILESTONES

- Early 2002–Draft Environmental Assessments completed
- Mid 2002–Location Public Hearings
- Mid 2002–Action by Commonwealth Transportation Board
- Late 2002–Final Environmental Assessments submitted to Federal Highway Administration

OTHER PROJECTS IN THE CORRIDOR

Concurrent with the Route 1 Location Studies, VDOT is progressing with four other projects in the corridor. Here is a report on their status:

- Widening of Route 1 from south of Lorton to Telegraph Road in Fairfax County. Right of way acquisition is underway with construction to begin in 2002.
- Route 1/Route 123 Interchange, Prince William County. Right of way acquisition is underway, but a date



Woodlawn Plantation is one of the many historic attractions in the Route 1 Corridor.

for the start of construction has not been established.

- Route 1 Bridge Replacement at Neabsco Creek, Prince William County. The process of acquiring right of way for this project is underway as well, with construction scheduled for summer of 2003.
- Route 1/Route 234 Interchange, Prince William County. Design is underway, to be followed by right of way acquisition in 2003. Construction is planned to begin in 2005.

YOUR INPUT IS A KEY TO SUCCESS

Input from citizens who live in the area is critical to the success of the studies, providing further insight into problems and opportunities. Citizens wishing to contribute input may do so by calling (703) 383-VDOT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on the Route 1 Location Studies, log on to [www.virginia-dot.org/projects/studynova-rt1.asp]

To add your name to this newsletter's mailing list, phone (703) 383-VDOT
Project number: 0001-96A-103, PE-100



Location & Design Section
14685 Avion Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151