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LOCATION PUBLIC HEARING

I-95 Rappahannock River Crossing City of Fredericksburg, Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties

Wednesday, June 24, 2015, 5 - 7 p.m.

James Monroe High School
2300 Washington Ave.
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

State Project: 0095-111-259, P101 & 0095-111-270, P101
UPC 101595 & 105510

Welcome

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate alternatives and potential environmental consequences of the proposed Rappahannock River Crossing (RRC) project on Interstate 95, located in the City of Fredericksburg, Stafford County and Spotsylvania County. The crossing would add collector-distributor lanes parallel to the general purpose lanes between Exit 133 (Route 17) in Stafford County and Exit 130 (Route 3) in Fredericksburg as well as possible interchange modifications.

Purpose of the Hearing

The purpose of this hearing is to provide a public opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing body, to offer comments or submit written material concerning the EA. We invite you to review the findings of the EA and discuss the project with VDOT representatives who are here to answer your questions. All comments received will be considered prior to a final decision on the EA.

Background

Since early 2000, various studies have identified improvements to relieve congestion in the I-95 corridor in the greater Fredericksburg area. In mid-2013, the I-95 Rappahannock River Crossing project was identified in the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan and was programmed in the Fiscal Year 2014 – 2019 VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program.

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Provide additional capacity.
- Reduce congestion through this section of the I-95 corridor.
- Improve accessibility and mobility to and within the surrounding activity and employment centers.
- Improve safety on this section of I-95 where high traffic volumes and heavy weaving and merging volumes contribute to a crash rate above the statewide average.
- Address current and planned growth that will increase traffic volumes in the study area, which are projected to increase 44-52% by 2040.



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 or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact:

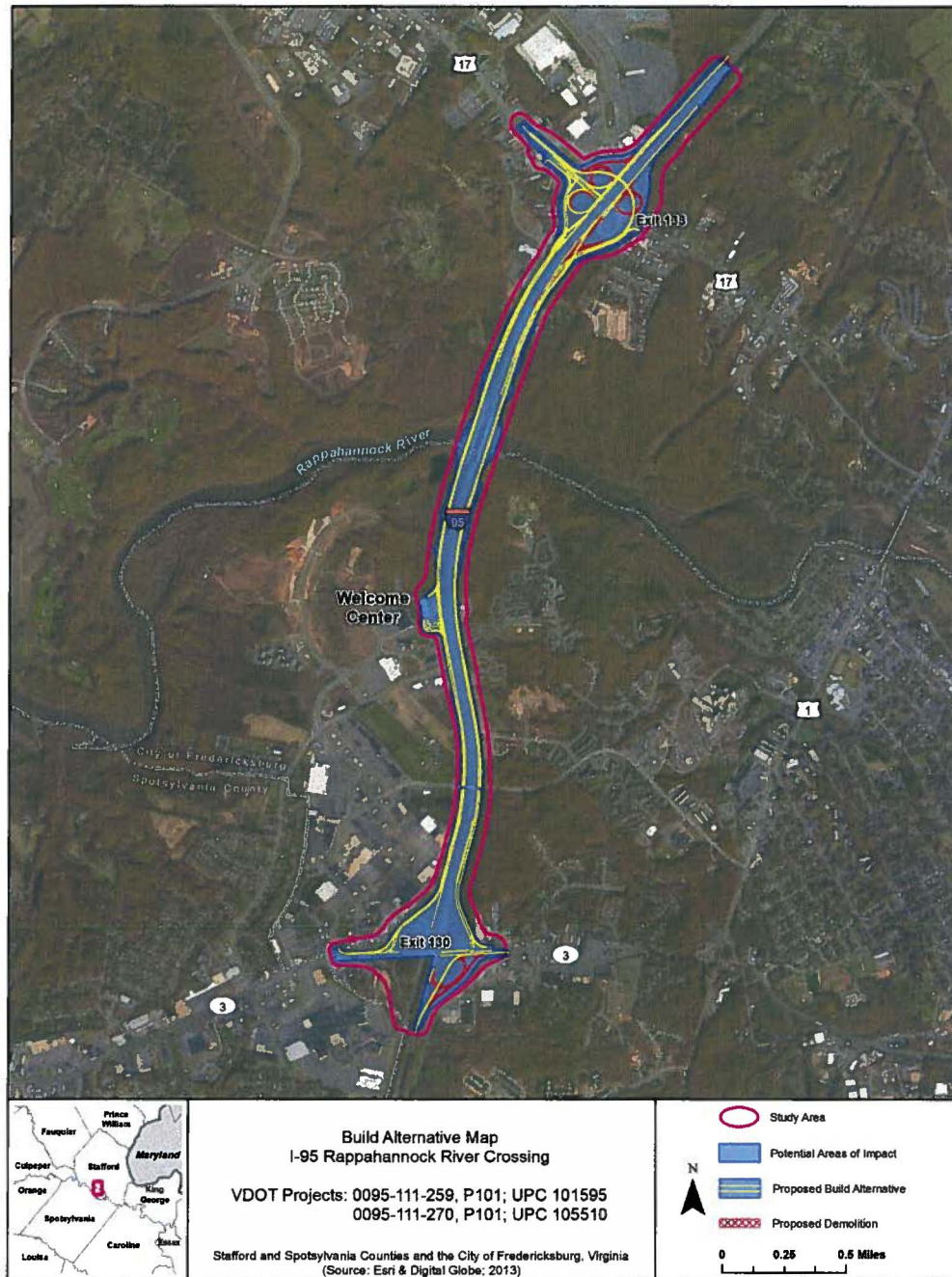
VDOT's Civil Rights Division

Fredericksburg District Office

87 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Phone 540-899-4562 or TTY/TDD 711

Description of Build Alternative



Build Alternative as Shown in the Environmental Assessment

The Build Alternative is based on the improvement concept identified and evaluated in the *I-95 Interchange Modification Report (IMR)* and represents a set of improvements that form a stand-alone solution to the identified needs within the study corridor. A design plan concept for the Build Alternative is within a study corridor that includes sufficient area to accommodate future refinements and modifications to the design evaluated and depicted in the *I-95 IMR* and in the EA.

As described in the EA, a design concept for the Build Alternative would include:

- Parallel two-lane collector-distributor roads in each direction, including bridges across the Rappahannock River
- Improvements to I-95 Exit 133 (US 17 interchange)
- Improvements to I-95 Exit 130 (VA 3 interchange)
- Improvements at the Virginia Welcome Center

Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts

Potential impacts of the No-Build and Build Alternatives are summarized in the table below. The impacts of the actual construction and right of way footprint would be expected to be less than the total impacts reported for the study corridor. The study corridor represents an exaggerated "footprint" of the project to provide an assessment of worst-case impacts and to provide flexibility during final design to consider multiple variations of specific alignments and design features.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on historic properties is provided in the EA.

Public comment is invited on proposed *de minimis* impact findings for impacts of the proposed project on Section 4(f) resources, which include parks, trails and historic properties, under provisions of 23 CFR 774 (Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act).



Summary of Potential Impacts

Category	Quantity in the Study Area	Estimated Impacts of Build Alternative	Estimated Impacts of No-Build Alternative
Right of Way (count of parcels/acres)	172/174.5	73/32.7	0
Non-Profit Organizations (count of parcels)	1	0	0
Churches (count of parcels)	0	0	0
Low-Income Housing (count of parcels)	2	0	0
Other Community Facilities (count of parcels)	3	0	0
Prime Farmlands (acres)	12.6	0	0
Farmlands of Statewide Importance (acres)	18.0	0	0
Forest Land (acres)	116.8	37.9	0
Streams (linear feet)	10,754	6,408	0
Wetlands (acres)	5.97	2.4	0
FEMA Floodplain (acres)	18.9	13.4	0
Eligible/Potentially Eligible Archaeology Sites (count/acres)	2/12.4	2/6.5	0
Eligible/Potentially Eligible Architectural Sites (count/acres)	2/12.4	2/6.5	0
Noise (count of receptors impacted)	192	45	0
Potential Contaminated Sites (count)	4	3	0

Environmental Review

Copies of the EA document are available for review here tonight, or it can be reviewed on the project website at www.VirginiaDOT.org. Click on "Projects and Studies" and select Fredericksburg. The EA also is available at VDOT's Fredericksburg District Office located at 87 Deacon Road in Stafford County.

Cost/Funding

Planning level cost estimates were developed for the projects. Southbound improvements are proposed to be advanced ahead of northbound improvements. The estimated cost for the southbound improvements (UPC 101595) is estimated at \$121.3M. This project is funded for preliminary design. The estimated cost for the northbound improvements (UPC 105510) is estimated at \$152.0 million. Preliminary design is not currently funded for this project. The projects are to be evaluated and prioritized as required by law under House Bill 2. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will decide which projects to advance while considering statewide needs.

Schedule

DATE	EVENT
June 24, 2015	Location Public Hearing
July 9, 2015	Final day to submit comments
Late Summer 2015	EA revised, based on comments received
Winter 2015*	Final decision on the EA by FHWA

* Schedule dependent on funding based on House Bill 2 prioritization

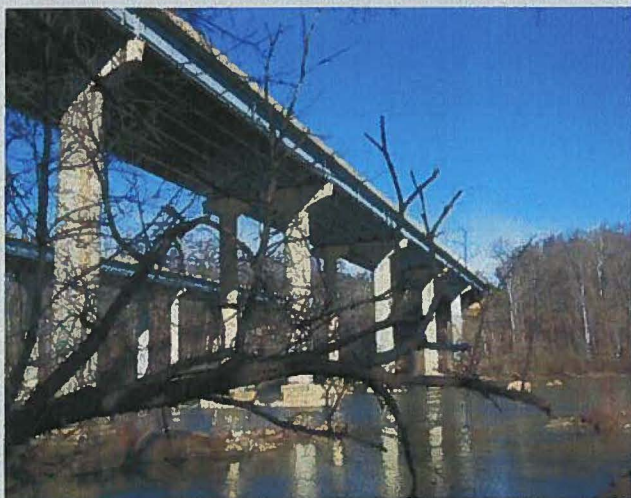
Right of Way and Relocation Assistance

Information about right of way purchase is provided 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 VDOT's right of way representatives. After this meeting, information and questions regarding right of way should be directed to:

Brian Costello, Northeast Regional Right of Way Manager
Virginia Department of Transportation
4975 Alliance Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030
1-800-367-7623

What's Next?

VDOT will review and evaluate the comments you provide tonight and during the comment period. The EA will be revised as appropriate to reflect changes resulting from comments received. The EA then will be submitted to FHWA, along with a copy of the public hearing transcript, a recommendation for the project, and a request that a final decision be made by FHWA.



Get Involved

Thank you for reviewing the materials presented here. Your comments are valuable. Written comments must be postmarked or sent electronically no later than July 9, 2015, and may be submitted in three ways:

- **At this hearing:** Put written comments in the designated box or make an oral comment to the court reporter.
- **By mail:** Send written comments to—
Heather Williams, Project Manager
Environmental Division
Virginia Department of Transportation
1401 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219
- **By email:** Send emails to—
heather.williams@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Please reference "I-95 Rappahannock River Crossing Public Comment" in the subject line.

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