



The City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the Public Works Department
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Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

STREET MAINTENANCE
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
REFUSE/ RECYCLING
RESOURCE RECOVERY
CENTRAL STORES

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TO: Harrisonburg City Council
Kurt D. Hodgen, City Manager
Evan Vass, Assistant City Manager

FROM: James D. Baker, Public Works Director

RE: Erickson Avenue/Stone Spring Road Update

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Background & Corridor Overview

For many years the Erickson Avenue-Stone Spring Road Project has been identified as a top priority to improve street system connectivity, provide better east to west mobility, and address deficient lane capacity and critical safety concerns in the southern portion of the City of Harrisonburg. Initial conceptual planning for this project began in the late 1980s. The City entered into contract with Mattern & Craig to perform design and engineering services in the mid 1990s.

The Erickson Avenue/Stone Spring Road Connection spans 3.1-miles stretching from west city limits to east city limits, providing the only continuous transportation link other than Route 33. This route also provides an alternate for traffic that must currently wind through residential areas. This project is included in the City of Harrisonburg's 2004 Comprehensive Plan and Harrisonburg Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization's (HRMPO) 2030 Transportation Plan adopted in 2005. The corridor project is also included in the current State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Six-Year Improvement Plan (SYIP).

The corridor passes through existing developed commercial areas and areas currently receiving extreme interest for future residential development. The proposed corridor improvements will facilitate access to Harrisonburg High School, Stone Spring Elementary School, Berea Christian School, Ramblewood Field (a City recreational facility), Blacks Run Greenway (a City-programmed trail facility), plus an alternative route to the relocation site of the new Rockingham Memorial Hospital.

Staff proposes the corridor be constructed in four segments or phases. Early in the planning process, staff took deliberate steps to ensure the project's eligibility for all funding sources including state and federal funds.

Project Phases

Phase I – Erickson Avenue, 600' west of South High Street to Pear Street

Phase I for corridor improvement is a 0.23-mile section of Erickson Avenue at the intersection of Route 42. Although relatively short in length, the project addresses extremely critical traffic capacity and safety issues.

The project will provide widening of Erickson Avenue, approximately 600 feet west of the intersection, from 2-lane, 22-foot wide, asphalt surface and ditch street section to 5-lanes with curb and gutter, a minimum of 48 feet wide asphalt surface to provide adequate turn lanes. On-street, 4 foot wide bicycle lanes in each direction and a sidewalk are provided for the project. The intersection with Route 42 will be widened and improved to add right turn lanes.

In addition to relocation of the railroad and removal of the existing trestle, existing Pear Street will be relocated approximately 450 feet east of Route 42 to a new intersection with improved Erickson Avenue. Pear Street will be improved to a 30-foot wide street with curb and gutter to meet current horizontal and vertical standards.

- Phase I construction has been awarded to Perry Engineering Construction. Work will begin February 9, 2008 and is expected to be complete by November 2010.

Sequence of Phase I construction

Phase I construction will occur in three different construction stages:

Stage 1 will entail:

- Installation and operation of a temporary traffic signal at the northern Pear Street intersection with South High Street. This will be necessary in Stage 2, but will be placed into operation during Stage 1 in order to familiarize motorists with changing traffic patterns.
- Pear Street will be relocated east of its existing location and tied in with existing Pear Street at either end. The trestle will remain open in this first stage.
- Work will begin on Erickson Avenue in front of Stoneburner which will include the right lane construction from southbound Route 42 to westbound Erickson Avenue and excavation/retaining wall construction for widening Erickson Avenue.

Stage 2 will entail:

- Closure of Pear Street/Erickson Avenue under the trestle.
- Relocation of approximately 2000 linear feet of rail track to the east of its existing alignment.
- Curb radii adjustments on south side of Erickson Avenue at South High Street (in front of Exxon station).

Stage 3 will entail:

- Construction of Erickson Avenue between Route 42 and Pear Street, including the at-grade rail crossing.

Phase II - S. Main Street (Rt. 11) to East City Limits

Phase II of the project involves improving existing Stone Spring Road between S. Main Street (Rt. 11) to east city limits (near Peach Grove Ave). Planned is a 5-lane roadway with center turn lane, bicycle lanes, and sidewalk. Additionally, Ramblewood Road will be realigned, moving away from the Interstate 81 Bridge.

Bridge over Interstate 81: Reconstruction of the Stone Spring Road Bridge over Interstate 81 is being designed and constructed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Improvements will widen the bridge to 5-lanes to match with City improvements to Stone Spring Road. VDOT is working towards a fall 2009 bid advertisement and winter construction award. VDOT estimates the bridge project to cost approximately \$10 million.

Phase II is anticipated to be advertised for bid in late fall 2009.

Phase III - Pear Street to Main Street (Rt. 11)

Phase III of the project will connect Erickson Avenue at Pear Street with Stone Spring Road at S Main Street (Rt. 11) on new alignment. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will be provided. This section will also have controlled access.

PHASE IV - West City Limits to South High Street (Rt. 42)

Phase IV of the project involves improvements to existing Erickson Avenue to the west city limits. The project entails widening Erickson Avenue to a 5-lane roadway with center turn lane, bicycle lanes, and sidewalk.

30" RAW WATERLINE

A 30-inch raw waterline installation will also be coordinated with the road construction project. The new waterline will assist in developing the new eastern waterline supply from the Shenandoah River.

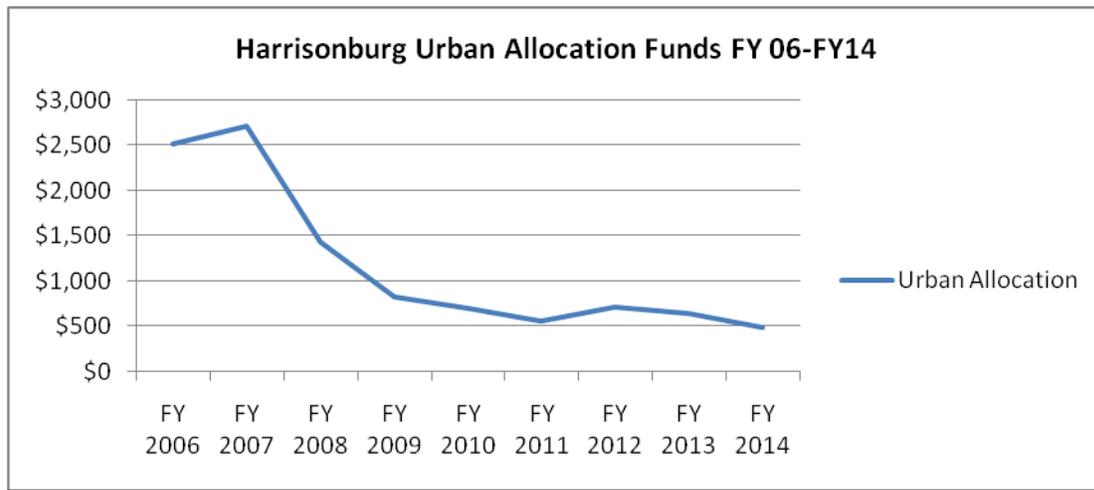
Project Budget

Phase I construction contract has been awarded to Perry Engineering Company, Inc. of Winchester, Virginia. The contract amount is \$5.7 million. There are estimated to be an additional \$2.2 million worth of costs in administrative overhead, inspection, materials certification, and engineering support.

Construction Estimates	
Phase I	\$7,900,000
Phase II	\$18,100,000
Phase III	\$9,500,000
Phase IV	\$4,500,000
Total:	\$40,000,000

Figure 1 (left): Construction Estimates: The above prices are based upon actual contract prices for Phase I and estimated VDOT costs for Phases II through IV. Phase II excludes the cost of the I-81 Bridge, which is being funded through Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and state dollars. Excluded from this cost estimate is also the 30" raw waterline project developed by the Department of Public Utilities.

Figure 2 (below): The below chart depicts the radical decrease in state funds that the City of Harrisonburg has received from its urban allocation beginning in FY 2006. FY 2009 through FY 2014 are tentative projections based on the latest figures from the Draft FY 2009 Six Year Plan that will be considered by the Commonwealth Transportation Board on February 19th. It should be anticipated that future fiscal years urban allocations' will fall below the projections depicted below.



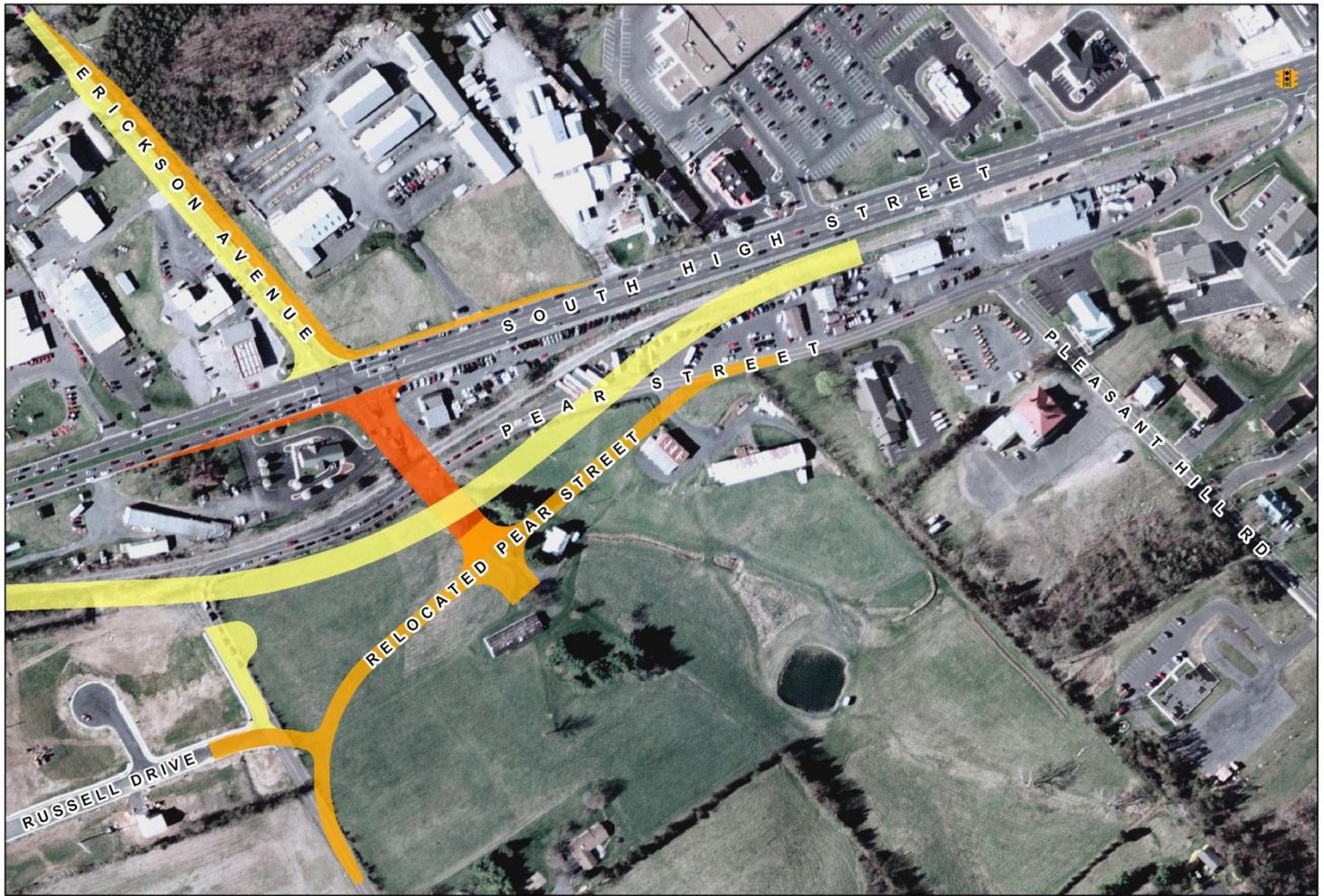
**Dollar amounts on Y Axis represent thousands of dollars.*

Construction Schedule [NOTE: Construction schedule may need revision for Q1 or Q2 Phase II bidding]

Erickson Avenue-Stone Spring Road Schedule																								
	CY 2009				CY 2010				CY 2011				CY 2012				CY 2013				CY 2014			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Phase I	NTP*																							
Phase II				Bid	NTP																			
Phase III											Bid	NTP												
Phase IV																		Bid	NTP					

* NTP = Notice to Proceed

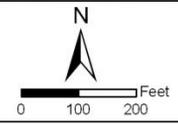
Phases III & IV schedules are preliminary based upon future availability of funding



Legend

	Stage 1		Temporary Traffic Signal
	Stage 2		
	Stage 3		

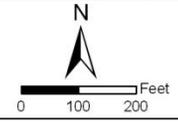
Erickson Ave & Stone Spring Rd
Phase 1 Overview





- Legend**
-  Proposed Construction
 -  Temporary Traffic Signal

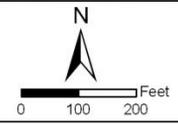
Erickson Ave & Stone Spring Rd
Phase 1, Stage 1

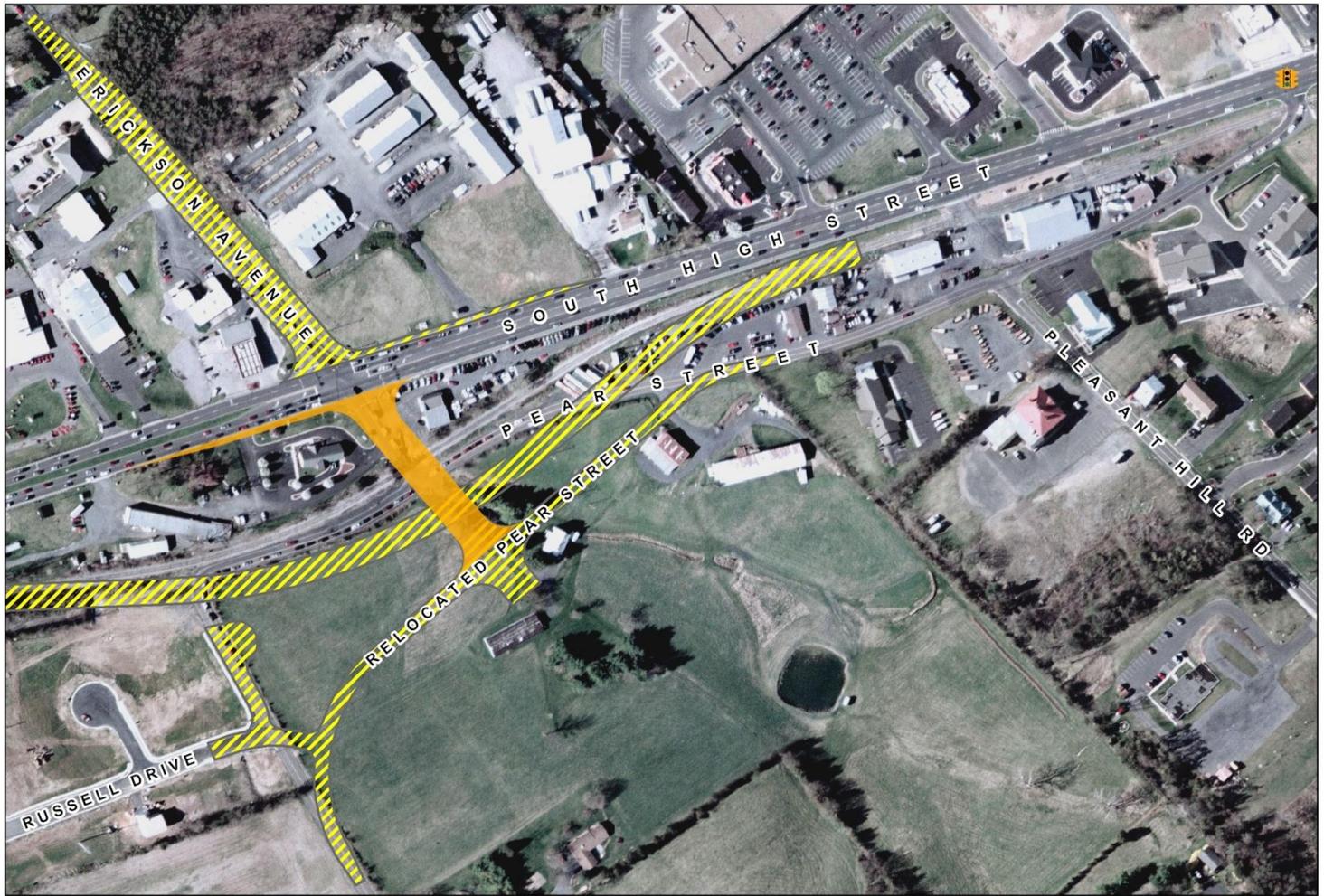




- Legend**
-  Proposed Construction
 -  Completed Construction
 -  Temporary Traffic Signal

Erickson Ave & Stone Spring Rd
Phase 1, Stage 2





- Legend**
-  Proposed Construction
 -  Completed Construction
 -  Temporary Traffic Signal

Erickson Ave & Stone Spring Rd
Phase 1, Stage 3

