

Location & Design Public Hearing

Erickson Avenue/ Stone Spring Road Connection City of Harrisonburg

Projects: U000-115-127, PE101, RW201, C501
U000-115-128, PE101, RW201, C501
U000-115-123, PE101, RW201, C501, B-601
Federal Project: STP-

*From: 0.270 Mi. West of Garbers Church Road
To: 0.014 Mi. West of Peach Grove Avenue*

**Thursday, August 31, 2006
4:30 PM to 7:30 PM**

**Keister Elementary School
100 Maryland Avenue
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801**



PURPOSE

This Location & Design Public Hearing is to provide a public opportunity to review the project design and to offer comments or submit written material concerning these projects. We encourage your input and have included a comment sheet for your use. Verbal comments will also be received. All comments received will be addressed by the City of Harrisonburg.

It is the responsibility of the City of Harrisonburg to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them. The City of Harrisonburg ensures non-discrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For further information, contact Mr. James Baker, Director of Public Works, located at 320 East Mosby Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Telephone (540) 434-5928, or TDD 711.

HISTORY AND TRAFFIC

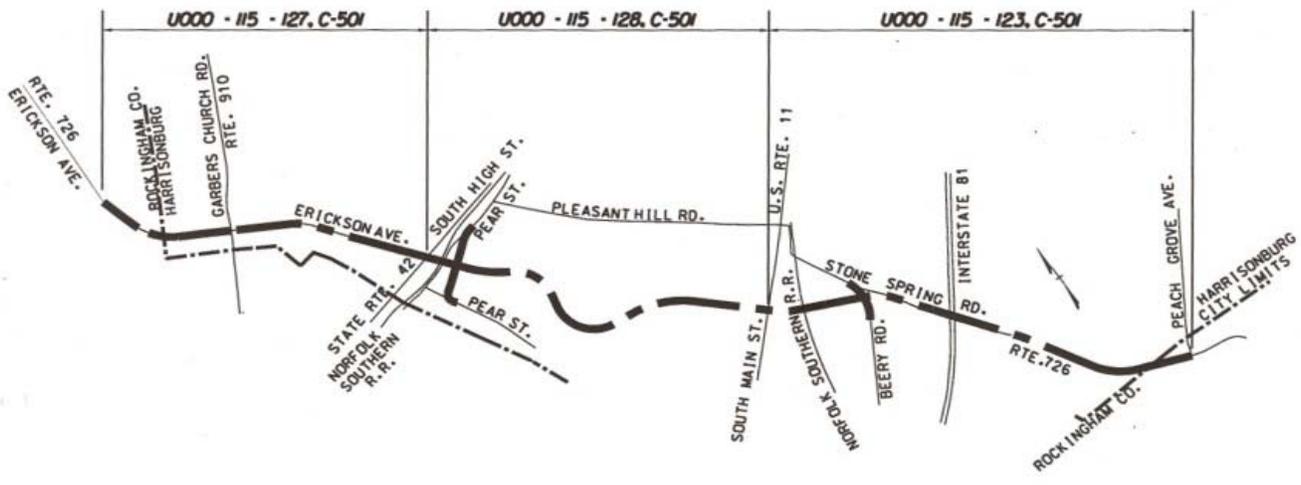
This project was initiated as a part of the Harrisonburg Area 2015 Transportation Plan to provide an improved corridor for east-west traffic in the southern part of the City. The project will be an urban minor arterial roadway providing service between commercial, retail shopping, and residential areas of Harrisonburg and portion of Rockingham County. New commercial and residential and uses and the new Harrisonburg High School will

continue to generate additional traffic in this area, further necessitating street improvements to support the traffic flow in a safe and convenient manner. These projects will greatly improve the ability of the Erickson Avenue/Stone Spring Road corridor to safely serve vehicular and pedestrian traffic volumes.

In 2004, Erickson Avenue served approximately 7,600 vehicles per day and Stone Spring Road served approximately 9,700 vehicles per day. The projected traffic volume in the year 2027 for the completed facility will be approximately 13,200 vehicles per day.

PROJECT

The City of Harrisonburg and the Virginia Department of Transportation are initiating plans to improve approximately 2.1 miles of Erickson Avenue and Stone Spring Road and provide a 1.0 mile connector roadway between South High Street and Stone Spring Road. The first section from 0.270 mile west of Garbers Church Road to the intersection of South High Street (Rte. 42) generally follows the existing road. The second section from the intersection of South High Street to the intersection of South Main Street (Rte. 11) will be on new location, and will be a controlled access roadway. This section includes relocating approximately 2,000 feet of railroad to provide an at-grade crossing of the railroad between High Street and relocated Pear Street and eliminating the existing railroad trestle with inadequate section



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LOCATION & DESIGN
PUBLIC HEARING

from the intersection of South High Street to the intersection of South Main Street (Rte. 11) will be on new location, and will be a controlled access roadway. This section includes relocating approximately 2,000 feet of railroad to provide an at-grade crossing of the railroad between High Street and relocated Pear Street and eliminating the existing railroad trestle with inadequate clearances. The third section from the intersection of South Main Street to Peach Grove Avenue will be on new location between South Main Street and Beery Road, including a new bridge over the railroad and Blacks Run, then will generally follow the existing road to 0.014 mile west of Peach Grove Avenue. A new bridge will be constructed over Interstate 81.

The proposed typical section will consist of four 12-foot lanes, a six-foot bicycle lane on each side with curb & gutter and a five-foot sidewalk on the north

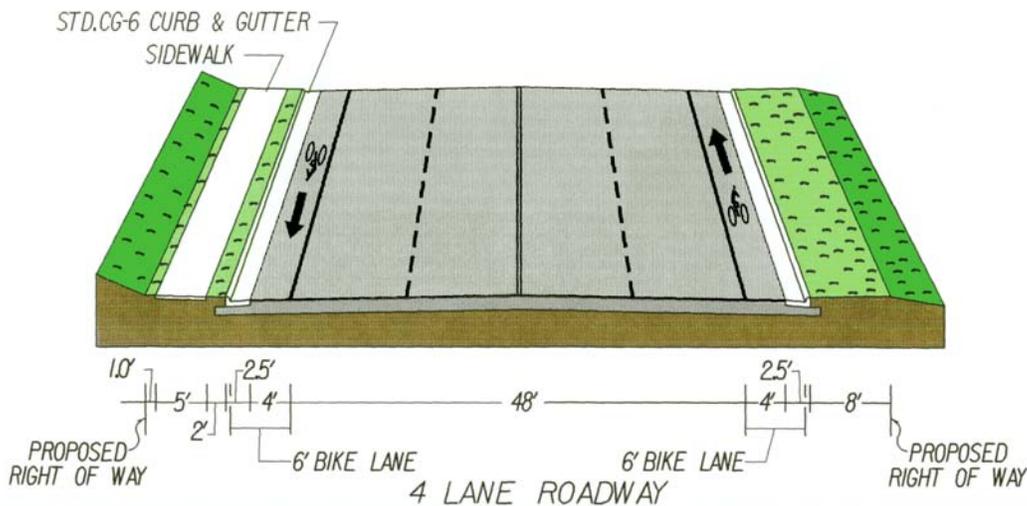
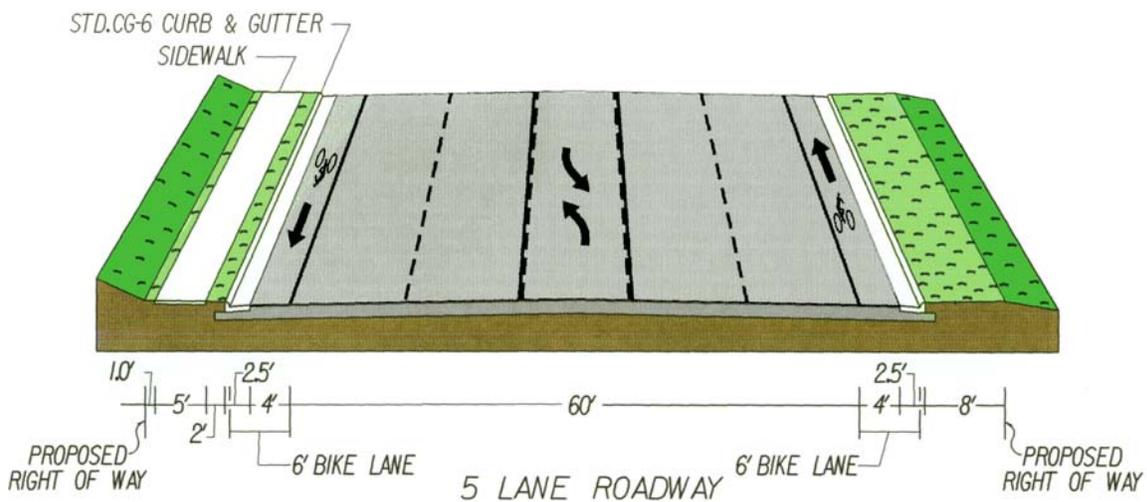
side. The first and third sections will include a continuous center turn lane. Construction of the proposed highway improvements may be completed in three or more projects.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Design of this project will be in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, the stormwater regulations, and the annual stormwater management standards and specifications approved by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

The right-of-way requirements for these projects are detailed on the plan displays.



Currently, 66 parcels of land will be affected in part or in whole by the acquisition of right-of-way and/or easements for these projects. A total of two residential structures and three businesses will be displaced. No non-profit organizations will be relocated. As project development is finalized and coordinated with public utility relocations, easement locations shown on the public hearing plans may change. Property owners will be informed of the exact location of easements during the right-of-way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information regarding right-of-way may be obtained from agents at the public hearing or from:

Mr. R. S. Ryder
District Right of Way Manager
Virginia Department of Transportation
Commerce Road
P.O. Box 2249
Staunton, VA 24401
Telephone (540) 332-9158

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

During construction, all reasonable efforts will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust control, siltation and erosion control. Construction will conform to VDOT specifications and special provisions and the Virginia Department of Soil and Water Conservation Regulations. This project will not significantly impact any streams or wetlands and will not involve significant air or noise impacts. An Environmental Assessment has been completed and was signed by the Federal Highway Administration on 5/17/06. The document is available for your review as part of this public hearing.

HISTORICAL IMPACTS

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration, the City of Harrisonburg has taken into account the effects of this project on historic properties and has consulted with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (VASHPO) and the director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). The VASHPO has agreed with the City that the proposed project will have no effect on historic properties.

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Architectural and archaeological surveys and evaluations were undertaken, and historic properties were identified. With design modifications in place, no historic properties are now located within the project's area of potential effects.

ESTIMATED COST

The total estimated cost of the project is \$54,800,000.00, which includes \$4,500,000.00 for preliminary engineering; \$16,600,000.00 for right of way, utility adjustments, relocation and relocation assistance; and \$33,700,000.00 for construction. The projects will be funded with federal, state, and local monies.

REMAINING ACTION

The following tentative schedule has been proposed:

1. Review and evaluate comments received at public hearing.
2. City of Harrisonburg recommendation.
3. Consideration by CTB - Late 2006
4. Consideration by Chief Engineer – Late 2006.
5. Begin right-of-way acquisition – Early 2007.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information regarding project design may be obtained from:

Mr. James Baker
Director of Public Works
320 East Mosby Road
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
Telephone (540) 434-5928

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments and other exhibits relative to the proposed project that may be presented in place of or in addition to statements made for the public hearing record and should be submitted within ten (10) calendar days after the public hearing to:

Mr. James Baker
Director of Public Works
320 East Mosby Road
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

All comments received as a result of this hearing will be available for public review.

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COMMENT SHEET

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Erickson Avenue/Stone Spring Road Connection City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

NAME (Optional) (please print): _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP CODE _____

1. Do you believe the project location and design as presented meets the needs of the area? No ___ Yes ___
Yes, with Modifications listed _____

2. Do you feel that this meeting helped you understand the project better? _____

3. Please provide us with any additional information which you feel would assist in the completion of this project.

4. Were VDOT and City's Representatives able to answer **YOUR** questions? _____

If not, were you offered further assistance? _____

**Please leave this comment sheet at the designated location or mail your comments
WITHIN 10 DAYS to the addressee on the reverse side.
All comment sheets become a part of the public record.**

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(fold)

RETURN ADDRESS

PLACE STAMP
HERE
POST OFFICE WILL
NOT DELIVER
WITHOUT PROPER
POSTAGE

MR. JAMES BAKER
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
CITY OF HARRISONBURG
320 EAST MOSBY ROAD
HARRISONBURG, VA 22801

(fold)

TAPE OR STAPLE HERE