



HARRISONBURG VA FRIENDLY BY NATURE



For Immediate Release – July 1, 2025

Contact: Michael Parks, Harrisonburg Director of Communications & Public Engagement
540.432.7701
Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov

Multi-week traffic pattern change coming to North Mason Street next week *Community invited to check out changes at July 12 block party*

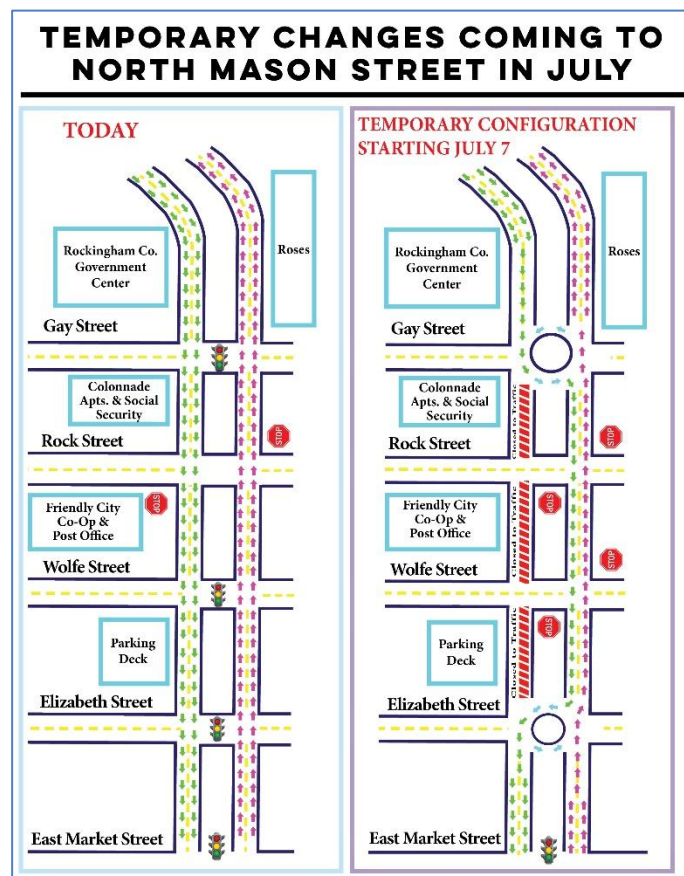
HARRISONBURG, Va. – Harrisonburg Public Works will soon begin implementing temporary traffic pattern changes to North Mason Street as part of the City of Harrisonburg’s Complete Street Demonstration Project.

The pilot project will reduce North Mason Street to two lanes between Gay Street and Elizabeth Street, and install two temporary roundabouts at Gay Street and Elizabeth Street, among other measures focused on improving safety in the corridor and reusing space traditionally dedicated to vehicles. The changes are based on community input received through a public forum held in March and from participants in the Harrisonburg Complete Streets Leadership Academy, a program that brought community members and business leaders from the Northeast Neighborhood together with City staff and transportation experts to brainstorm ways to improve North Mason Street.

More information on the Complete Street effort, which is part of the Harrisonburg Community Connectors project, can be found online at <https://harrisonburgva.gov/transportation-projects#NorthMasonStreetCompleteStreetDemonstrationProject>.

A number of streets will be impacted starting at 6 a.m. on Monday, July 7, running through 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, weather-permitting, as Harrisonburg Public Works implements changes. Streets to be impacted Monday-Wednesday will include:

- Southbound North Mason Street will be closed from Gay Street to East Market Street.
- Northbound North Mason Street will be restricted to one lane between East Market Street and Gay Street.
- Elizabeth Street will be closed between Federal Street and Broad Street. No turns off of Mason Street will be allowed.
- Wolfe Street will be closed between Federal Street and Broad Street. No turns off of Mason Street will be allowed.
- Additional streets may be impacted throughout the project. Notices will be posted if the project is delayed due to weather.



(Above) A diagram showing the current flow of traffic on North Mason Street (image left), and what traffic flow will look like once temporary changes are put into place starting July 7 (image right).

“This is a unique opportunity for us to test potential changes to one of our streets in real time and get users’ feedback about how they would like us to move forward in the future with this corridor,” Harrisonburg Public Works Director Tom Hartman said.

“We hope everyone who uses North Mason Street – no matter if you are driving, biking, walking or rolling – will be sure to provide us their feedback once they have had time to experience the changes and consider their impacts.”

Once changes are implemented, traffic flow on North Mason Street will follow the above diagram and remain in that configuration for approximately one month, after which North Mason Street will revert back to its current configuration. Drivers are encouraged to use caution and be mindful of the new traffic pattern as they use the corridor. A survey will be made available to the community for any feedback about the changes after implementation, with feedback being used to determine potential future traffic pattern changes on North Mason Street.

North Mason Street Block(s) Party invites community to enjoy, reuse section of roadway

The Harrisonburg Community Connectors team will host the North Mason Street Block(s) Party on Saturday, July 12, from 3 to 7 p.m. The event will take place in the section of North Mason Street closed by the Complete Street Demonstration Project, along three blocks from Gay Street to Elizabeth Street.

The celebration will include historical and educational displays about the history of the Northeast Neighborhood and Harrisonburg’s black community curated by the Northeast Neighborhood Association and the Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project – both members of the Harrisonburg Community Connectors team along with the City of Harrisonburg, Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance (HDR) and Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA). Learn more about the Harrisonburg Community Connectors project at <https://harrisonburgva.gov/community-connectors>.



**NORTH MASON STREET
BLOCKS PARTY!**

FREE EVENT!

FAMILY FUN ZONE! **FIELD DAY!** **FOOD COURT/MARKET!
TOUCH-A-TRUCK!**

**SATURDAY, JULY 12
3 TO 7 P.M.**

• Historical & Educational Displays • Food Vendors • Music • Public Safety Touch-a-Truck • Parks & Rec Activities •
• Games and Children’s Booths • Community Art • Neighborhood Bonding • And So Much More! •

TAKING PLACE ON NORTH MASON STREET BETWEEN GAY STREET AND ELIZABETH STREET
- HOSTED BY CITY OF HARRISONBURG, HARRISONBURG DOWNTOWN RENAISSANCE,
NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, SHENANDOAH VALLEY BLACK HERITAGE PROJECT & HRHA -

The Block(s) Party will offer free family-friendly activities with food and merchandise available for purchase. Attendees can enjoy food vendors, music, a Silent Disco, a video game bus, a touch-a-truck hosted by Harrisonburg public safety and transportation agencies, activities from Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation, games and children’s booths, tours of the nearby Green Book House, tables from local nonprofits, community art and more.

“The Harrisonburg Community Connectors team has focused throughout this project on how to reconnect the Northeast Neighborhood to Downtown, and much of that conversation has focused on how to reimagine North Mason Street in a way that creates less of a barrier between the neighborhood and the amenities nearby,” Harrisonburg Director of Communications & Public Engagement Michael Parks said. “Being able to hold a celebration on North Mason Street itself not only brings our community together, but also will go a long way toward showing how this space could be reutilized in the future for the betterment of our community members while safely keeping traffic moving in our Downtown.”

Both the Harrisonburg Community Connectors project and the Complete Street Demonstration Project were made possible thanks to national nonprofit Smart Growth America and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which selected Harrisonburg as one of 15 groups in the country to take part in the inaugural Community Connectors program. Find more information on the organization at www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 56,879 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.