Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) design public hearing on the proposed bridge rehabilitation on Iron Bridge Road/Route 715 (Gholson Bridge) over the Meherrin River in Brunswick County.

This public hearing is held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project. VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them. VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this meeting and your input is encouraged. All oral and written comments received on this project will be included in a transcript for review by VDOT personnel, citizens and other interested parties.

Get Involved
The public comment period will close 10 days after this public hearing (November 11, 2018). VDOT representatives will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the public hearing.

Project information shared here is available for review after the public hearing at VDOT’s Richmond District Office located at 2430 Pine Forest Drive, South Chesterfield, VA 23834.

Comments can also be submitted in writing to Winston.Phillips@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Information must be postmarked, e-mailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today’s meeting (November 11, 2018) in order to be included in the public hearing record.

Public Meeting
Thursday, November 1, 2018, 5-7 p.m.
Brunswick County Government Building
228 N. Main Street
Lawrenceville, VA 23868

Project Overview
Total Cost – $4 million
Purpose – Rehabilitate the aging structure on its existing alignment
Location – From 1.02 miles south of Fleshood Lane to 0.21 miles north of Reavis Gin Road
Total Length – 0.14 miles
Representatives from VDOT are present to discuss the project and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of VDOT to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them. VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As the design is developed, VDOT will determine what right of way and easements will be needed to accommodate the construction. The right of way and easement information will be available at the public meeting. The property owners will be notified of the exact location of the right of way and easements needed during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT’s brochure, “Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants.” Copies of this brochure are available here from a VDOT right of way agent.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a NEPA document has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc.

The project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state and local agencies as part of the environmental review and approval processes required throughout project development and construction. All required environmental clearances and permits will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT’s Specifications and standard best practices will protect the environment during construction.

The NEPA document and the results of other environmental studies are available at today’s meeting. Representatives from VDOT’s Environmental Section are available to discuss this information and to answer questions.

**Project Description**

The primary purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the aging structure on its existing alignment. The bridge was built in 1884 and is not currently equipped to handle future traffic volumes. Minor pavement improvements will be necessary. A height and width detection system is also proposed on each bridge approach to reduce oversized vehicle impacts to the historic structure. According to 2016 traffic counts, the Route 715 bridge carries approximately 456 vehicles per day.

**Estimated Project Cost**

- **Total cost:** $4 million
- **Engineering of roadway plans:** $508,000
- **Right of way acquisition and utility relocation:** $372,000
- **Construction:** $3.1 million

This cost is subject to change as design progresses.

**Civil Rights**

Representatives from VDOT are present to discuss the project and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of VDOT to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them. VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**Right of Way**

As the design is developed, VDOT will determine what right of way and easements will be needed to accommodate the construction. The right of way and easement information will be available at the public meeting. The property owners will be notified of the exact location of the right of way and easements needed during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT’s brochure, “Right of Way and Utilities: a Guide for Property Owners and Tenants.” Copies of this brochure are available here from a VDOT right of way agent.

**Environmental Review**

VDOT’s Richmond District Environmental Office has performed environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity; to provide natural and historic resource agencies an opportunity to review and comment on the project during its development, and to identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.

The project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state and local agencies as part of the environmental review and approval processes required throughout project development and construction. All required environmental clearances and permits will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT’s Specifications and standard best practices will protect the environment during construction.

The NEPA document and the results of other environmental studies are available at today’s meeting. Representatives from VDOT’s Environmental Section are available to discuss this information and to answer questions.

**Anticipated Schedule**

- **Design approval:** Fall 2018
- **Begin right of way acquisition:** Fall 2019
- **Begin construction:** Spring 2021
- **Estimated completion:** Summer 2021

**Project Graphic**

**Total cost:**

- **$4 million**

**Engineering of roadway plans:** $508,000

**Right of way acquisition and utility relocation:** $372,000

**Construction:** $3.1 million

This cost is subject to change as design progresses.