Ten days after this public hearing, the public comment period will close on September 6, 2019.

VDOT representatives will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the hearing.

A comment sheet is enclosed and can be submitted at tonight’s hearing or mailed to Mr. C.E.Cumbie, Project Manager, 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153. Comments also may be submitted by email to c.cumbie@vdot.virginia.gov.

Information must be postmarked, e-mailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of tonight’s hearing in order to be included in the hearing record.

The project information, including the hearing summary, will be available for review at VDOT’s Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem.

After all comments have been addressed, the information received as a result of this hearing will be presented to VDOT’s Chief Engineer or designee for consideration.

If approval of the major design features is received for this project, it will move forward to the final design phase.

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) design public hearing for a safety improvement project at the intersection of Route 834 and Route 670 in Franklin County. The hearing will be held in an ‘open-house’ format.

This design public hearing is being 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.

Available Allocations – $3.9 million

Purpose – To improve safety by constructing a roundabout
From – 0.102 mile south of Route 670
To – 0.107 mile north of Route 670
Project Length – 0.21 mile

Improvements –
- Installing a roundabout to improve safety
- Realigning Route 834 and Route 670 eastward to provide better sight distance for motorists traveling along Route 670
- Providing access management to nearby businesses
The primary purpose of this project is to improve safety and reduce the frequency and severity of crashes at the intersection of Route 834 and Route 670 by installing a roundabout, realigning the intersection to create better sight distance and providing better access management to nearby businesses.

Between May 2013 and April 2019, 23 crashes occurred at the intersection. Of those crashes, 11 were angle crashes, which tend to be the most severe. Approximately 4,900 vehicles use the intersection each day.

The four-way stop installed in 2016 was implemented as an interim safety measure since it could be installed quickly and with low cost. Four-way stops rely on driver compliance and would help improve operations as vehicles proceed more efficiently through the intersection.

The new roundabout would be a physical measure to require all vehicles to come to a complete stop. The four-way stop installed in 2016 was an interim safety measure since it could be installed quickly and with low cost. Four-way stops rely on driver compliance and would help improve operations as vehicles proceed more efficiently through the intersection.

The new roundabout would be a physical measure of vehicles failing to stop, and an 18-foot wide circulatory travel lane. The roadway approaches to the roundabout will have 12-foot lane widths and four-foot shoulders. Roadway lighting also will be installed as part of the project.

Access management improvements will consist of better defined entrances and access for the business located at the southwest corner of the intersection. The design of this project is in compliance with the Stormwater Management Act, stormwater regulations and the annual stormwater management standards and specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. Potential impacts to the flood plains will be evaluated and addressed on this project.

The construction of this project will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and the Virginia Department of Soil and Water conservation regulations. Also, during construction, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust and erosion control.

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The project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies as part of environmental review and approval processes required throughout project development and construction. All required environmental clearances 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 management 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.