Public Involvement Process - Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road

Annual UCI Meeting

July 12, 2012
Steering Committee

Richard Berman
Neighborhood Representative

Stephen Bolton
CHART

Dan Clark
Charlottesville Assistant City Manager

John Conover
Rivanna Trails Foundation

Tony Edwards
Charlottesville City Engineer

Robert Hodous
Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce

John Hossack
Neighborhood Representative

Greg Krystyniak
VDOT - Project Manager

Cheri Lewis
Charlottesville Planning Commission

Kevin Lynch
Charlottesville City Council

Leigh B. Middleditch, Jr.
Citizens Committee for City-County Cooperation

Calvin Morris
Albemarle County Planning Commission

Owen Peery
RK&K Engineers Project Manager

Russell Perry
Planner / Architect

Leo Rutledge
VDOT Local Assistance Division

Brent Sprinkel
VDOT Culpeper District

Mike Svetz
Charlottesville Director of Parks and Recreation

Angela Tucker
Charlottesville Project Manager
**Purpose and Need**

**PROJECT PURPOSE**

The purpose of the project is to:
- Address roadway and operational deficiencies that exist now and that will result from future traffic conditions at the No-Build intersection;
- Safely accommodate future traffic;
- Improve community mobility, including bicycle and pedestrian mobility;
- Design a gateway to the City and McIntire Park that is sensitive to the context of its surroundings, minimizes impacts to the environment, and supports existing and planned recreational development;
- Be consistent with the Congressional earmark established in SAFETEA-LU.

**PROJECT NEED**

There are five specific needs to be addressed by this project:

1) Roadway and operational deficiencies in the form of traffic congestion, limited capacity, and inefficient traffic operations
   - One or more of the turning movements at the existing intersection do not operate acceptably during peak hours.
   - The no-build condition (see Alternative A) will have excessive queuing and delays in 2030 that will interfere with the Park Street interchange, Route 250 merge/diverge areas, and at-grade access points.

2) Unsafe motorist, bicycle, and pedestrian conditions
   - The project area experiences an automobile crash rate three times higher than the statewide average.
   - The limited number of crosswalks and sidewalks in the project area contributes to unsafe pedestrian and bicycle conditions.

3) Deficiencies in community mobility for automobiles, pedestrians, and bicyclists
   - The Route 250 Bypass creates a barrier to efficient pedestrian and bicycle mobility.

4) Social demands for creating a context sensitive gateway
   - The project area is a primary gateway to McIntire Park and downtown Charlottesville.

5) Consideration of U.S. Congressional desires as represented by their earmark in 2005 SAFETEA-LU legislation (High Priority Project No. 5044 & TIP No. 408)
Additional Benefits

- 10’ wide shared-use path has been added along east side of McIntire Road.
- Impacts to surrounding historic properties (McIntire Park, Rock Hill Landscape, Covenant School, Charlottesville/Albemarle Historic Courthouse District) are being successfully mitigated through the MOA.
  - Photo documentation completed
  - Written documentation being finalized
  - Interpretive Signage being reviewed by Consulting Parties
  - Landscape Plan completed
  - Rock Hill Treatment Plan being finalized
  - Coordination with MACAA ongoing
- Dogwood Vietnam Memorial has been redesigned to improve access to the memorial as well as facilitate how it is used
- Birdwood Road (entrance only) and Hillcrest Road (entrance/exit separated from 250 mainline) have been reconfigured to improve safety.
- Stone façade on bridge/retaining walls under design. Construction techniques being proposed will result in similar quality as the John Warner Parkway bridge. Inspiration is being drawn from Rock Hill’s stone walls.
- Placement and design of ~4900 linear feet of sidewalk/shared use path and ~3400 linear feet of bike lanes have been designed. All signalized intersections have been modeled to include pedestrian countdown/WALK buttons.
- Landscaping has been carefully coordinated with City Parks staff for successful long-term maintenance and to extend Schenk’s Greenway into McIntire Park.
- Trailhead parking has been added to allow for shared use between park patrons and CARS members.
- Opticon system for emergency vehicles has been upgraded at signals and CARS entrance had been design for optimal performance
- Harris Street/McIntire Road intersection has been redesigned to provide pedestrian/bicyclist access.
2 Citizen Information Meetings

CITIZEN INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road
VDOT Project No. 0250-104-103, PE-101
STP-5104 (156)

Senior Center, Inc.
1180 Pepsi Place
Charlottesville, VA 22901
Thursday, March 23, 2006
4:00 PM to 7:30 PM

The City of Charlottesville announces a Citizen Informational Meeting, open forum format, for the Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2006 from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the Senior Center, 1180 Pepsi Place.

Meeting attendees are invited to provide the City with their comments and input on the proposed project. The purpose of the meeting is to present project background information, including key themes for the Draft Purpose and Need, Draft Goals and Objectives, Area Resources, and Preliminary Interchange Concepts for the Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road. Members of the Project Team will be on hand to answer your questions and listen to your input.

Interested persons are invited to express their views in writing, giving reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed project. Comments will be received during the meeting or can be mailed (postmarked by April 3, 2006) to City of Charlottesville Neighborhood Development Services, PO Box 911, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902. For additional project information visit www.250interchange.org

The above meeting location is accessible to persons having disabilities. Any person having special needs or requiring special aid, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, is requested to contact the City of Charlottesville one week in advance.

PUBLIC NOTICE
12

Steering Committee Meetings

WORK SESSION & STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road
VDOT Project No. 0250-104-103, PE-101
STP-5104 (156)
February 27 and 28, 2007

Day One: SNL Building Basement Conference Room
One SNL Plaza, Charlottesville

Day Two: Omni Hotel, Salon B
235 West Main Street, Charlottesville

The City of Charlottesville announces a Team Work Session and Steering Committee Meeting for the Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road to be held over a two day period on February 27 and 28, 2007.

Day One – Team Work Session: February 27, 2007 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm)

This day will be a work session with two peer reviewers experienced in Context Sensitive Design and Parkway Design. The Project Team will provide the peer reviewers with project background, technical information, answer questions and provide an overview of recent activities. While Day One is a work session between the Project Team and peer reviewers, a comment period will be set aside between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm (approximately) for Steering Committee members and the public who would like to provide input. Please note that a comment period will also be provided for the public on Day Two.

Day Two – Steering Committee Meeting: February 28, 2008 (9:00 am – 1:30 pm)

During this meeting, there will be a brief overview of Project Team activities since our last meeting and a brief review of activities from Day One. Next we will have a report by the peer reviewers to the Steering Committee and Project Team. There will also be time for interaction between the Steering Committee and the peer reviewers. As with all Steering Committee meetings, there will be time for public comment.

For project information, visit www.250Interchange.org.

The above meeting locations are accessible to persons having disabilities. Any person having special needs or requiring special aid, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, is requested to contact the City of Charlottesville one week in advance.

PUBLIC NOTICE
2.5 years later.....Steering Committee recommends.....
City Council selects.....
Section 106 Coordination/ Historic Resource Mitigation
McIntire Park
Contributing Historic Resource – McIntire Golf Course
Contributing Historic Resource – Bathhouse & Wading Pool
Contributing Historic Resource – Dogwood Vietnam Memorial
Rock Hill Landscape
Current Conditions
Current Conditions
Additional Stakeholder Meetings

Dogwood
Vietnam
Memorial Committee
Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad
Birdwood Rd/Hillcrest Rd Neighborhood
Impacted Property Owners
End Result
Benefits of UCI

Continuous, Steady Progress

- November 2005 – Council appointed Steering Committee convenes
- March 2006 – Citizen Information Meeting #1 held (91 attendees)
- June 2006 - Citizen Information Meeting #2 held (47 attendees)
- November 2006 – Traffic Review with TJPDC
- June 2007 – Planning Commission Presentation
- October 2007 – Board of Architectural Review Presentation
- November 2007 – Environmental Public Hearing held (55 attendees), work begins on Section 106 of Historic Preservation Act/NEPA effort
- August 2008 – City Council selects Preferred Alternative (urban diamond vs. round-about)
- November 2009 – Design Public Hearing held (94 attendees)
- December 2009 – Council approves major design features as presented at public hearing
- May 2010 – Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Section 106 executed between City Council, FHWA, VDOT, Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA), and the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial Committee.
- September 2010 – Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued by FHWA
- February 2011 – Lawsuit filed against FHWA regarding FHWA’s approval and funding of Interchange project under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). (Ongoing)
- May 2011 – FHWA authorized funding of acquisition of total take parcel (closed March 2012)
- September 2011 – Council approved RWSA easement in order to coordinate sanitary sewer upgrade/replacement (under mandate by DEQ for repair by 2012) with Interchange project
- January 2012 – FHWA authorized funding of acquisition of partial take parcels
- June 2012 – Right of Way completed
Benefits of UCI

City staff leading a city project – within budget
Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road

Welcome to the City of Charlottesville’s website for the Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road. This site is the source for information related to the study of the interchange alternatives, design updates and public involvement. We encourage you to review the project materials and offer your comments, suggestions and input via our e-comment form found in the Public Outreach section.

Interchange Rendering

Rt. 250 Bypass Bridge Perspective

(Click on images to view in Adobe PDF)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ISSUED BY THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

On September 29, 2010 the Federal Highway Administration issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Route 250 Bypass Interchange at McIntire Road Project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

The FONSI identifies Alternative G1 as the Selected Alternative which would construct a traditional diamond interchange with signalized ramps at the existing intersection of the Route 250 Bypass and McIntire Road. Alternative G1 consists of a grade separated interchange with McIntire Road traveling under the Route 250 Bypass with a straight girder bridge and signalized ramp configuration. This alternative meets the project needs while minimizing impacts to the surrounding properties. It also consists of context sensitive landscaping and aesthetic treatment throughout.

Also as part of the project, bicycle/pedestrian paths connecting the Schenck’s Branch Greenway and surrounding communities into McIntire Park will be constructed.

Concurrently, FHWA has also approved the Final Section 4(f) Evaluation, per Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act.
Questions or Comments?