



# Springfield Road (Route 157) Henrico County Road Improvement Study January 2013

## Why is VDOT holding this meeting?

VDOT is presenting draft results from a recent traffic and safety study to determine whether cost-effective improvements can be made to the existing two-mile stretch of Springfield Road (Route 157) between Nuckols Road and Staples Mill Road (Route 33) in Henrico County. The study looked at a number of ways to improve safety for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

## What were the findings of the study?

The year-long process analyzed safety and mobility of the corridor in three scenarios: current conditions, year 2036 conditions without any road modifications and year 2036 conditions under three corridor alternatives. The recommended improvements in each of the three alternatives were selected with the following goals in mind:

- Address identified safety/operational issues
- Address anticipated future traffic demand
- Accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians
- Consider the current and future land use context of the corridor

## The Springfield Road study presented three alternatives. What are the basic differences between them?

- |                      |  |  |
|----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Alternative 1</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8% crash reduction (compared to existing conditions)</li><li>• \$13 million preliminary cost estimate</li><li>• Roundabout at Francistown Road</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve corridor safety &amp; mobility</li><li>• Spot improvements (lighting, guardrail, etc.)</li><li>• Realign curves near Echo Lake</li></ul>   |
| <b>Alternative 2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 22% crash reduction (compared to existing conditions)</li><li>• \$19 million preliminary cost estimate</li><li>• Install roundabouts at Francistown Road &amp; Linsey Lakes Drive</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build a new Springfield Road between Linsey Lakes Drive and Francistown Road</li><li>• Spot improvements to the existing road in critical locations (lighting, guardrail, realign curves near Echo Lake, etc.)</li></ul> |
| <b>Alternative 3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 20% crash reduction (compared to existing conditions)</li><li>• \$18 million preliminary cost estimate</li><li>• Spot improvements to the existing road in critical locations</li><li>• Install roundabouts at Francistown Road &amp; Linsey Lakes Drive</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construct a new Springfield Road between Linsey Lakes Drive and Francistown Road, but prohibit through traffic on the existing road at Echo Lake.</li></ul>  |



# Springfield Road (Route 157) Henrico County Road Improvement Study January 2013

## **Would the new alignment of Springfield Road fit within the space reserved between the Winterberry and Kings Forest neighborhoods (Alternative 2 and 3)?**

Yes, the two-lane options with walking and bicycling accommodations would fit in the reserved right of way. In anticipation of this new road, Henrico County requested dedicated right of way from adjacent developments to establish a 100-foot wide corridor. Henrico County planned every development adjacent to this corridor with a new Springfield Road in mind. New subdivisions dedicated right of way for the relocation so that no subdivision would be divided and to minimize construction activities on existing properties in the future.

## **Does VDOT expect to acquire any new right of way to modify Springfield Road?**

Yes, right of way and/or easements would need to be acquired for any of the alternatives under review. The extent would vary depending on the alternative ultimately carried forward to design. Reconstructing existing Springfield Road (Alternative 1) would still involve some type of land acquisition. Alternatives 2 and 3 would have right of way needs along portions of the existing Springfield Road in addition to the property acquisition from Meredith Branch to the Francistown Road intersection along the new road.

## **How will this project be funded?**

VDOT has allocated \$2 million for Springfield Road planning and design. However, funds have not been allocated for right of way acquisition and construction. It is anticipated that VDOT would seek federal funding for construction based on the likely safety benefits.

## **Roundabouts? Why not traffic signals?**

Roundabouts are the safest form of traffic control at an intersection and a proven safety countermeasure identified and supported by the Federal Highway Administration. For the intersections identified for roundabouts in the Springfield Road study, roundabouts provide exceptional operational, safety, and traffic calming features compared to traffic signals. For more information about roundabouts, visit <http://www.virginiadot.org/info/faq-roundabouts.asp>.

## **What are VDOT's next steps?**

Following the public information meeting, the study team will review and summarize the verbal and written comments. VDOT will also consult with Henrico County over the next three months and expect to either recommend a design alternative to pursue or adopt no improvements (no build) at this time.

## **How can I get more information?**

Electronic copies of the draft Springfield Road study can be downloaded from VDOT's website at [http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/richmond/springfield\\_road\\_study.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/richmond/springfield_road_study.asp). An executive summary has also been posted, which gives an overview of the methodology and findings. VDOT's project manager, Harold Caples, can be reached at (804) 524-6324 or [Harold.Caples@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Harold.Caples@VDOT.Virginia.gov).