

Project Information

Project Name:	US 29/15/17 Improvements at Vint Hill	Federal Project#:	HSIP-5B01(020)
Project Number:	0029-030-843, C501, P101, R201	Project Type:	Construction
UPC:	114713	Charge Number:	UPC 114713
Route Number:	29	Route Type:	Primary
Project Limit--From:	0.96 MI. SOUTH OF ROUTE 215	To:	INT. OF US 29 AND ROUTE 215
Additional Project Description:	The project is to address safety by improving the current substandard stopping sight distance in the northbound lanes of US Route 15/29 (Lee Highway) in Fauquier County, approaching the intersection of Route 215 (Vint Hill Road).		
Purpose And Need:	Please see Purpose and Need in supporting documents.		
District:	City/County:	Residency:	
Culpeper	Fauquier	Warrenton	

Date CE level document approved by VA Division FHWA: 02/11/2019

FHWA Contact: Frost, Mack

Project in STIP: Yes

In Long Range Plan? N/A-Outside MPO Area

CE Category 23 CFR 771.117: c26

Description of Category: Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (including parking, weaving, turning, and climbing lanes), if the action meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section.

Logical Termini and Independent Utility: Yes

Next Phase of Funding Available? Yes

Comments:

Typical Section: The typical section that will be used for this project is the same width as the existing typical section. This typical section consists of two twelve foot wide lanes with six foot wide shoulders. The left shoulder will include two feet of paved width and the right shoulder will include four feet of paved width. The existing left and right turn lanes will remain and they will be eleven feet in width. The existing horizontal alignment will be shifted towards the median.

Structures: No structures are associated with this project.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Minority/Low Income Populations: Not Present

Disproportionate Impacts to Minority/Low Income Populations: No

Source: Culpeper Environmental & Right of Way Staff

Existing or Planned Public Recreational Facilities: Not Present

Community Services: Not Present

Consistent with Local Land Use: Yes

Source: Fauquier County Planning Staff

Existing or Planned Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities: Not Present

Source: Fauquier County Planning Staff

Socio-Economic Comments: The minority or low-income population of the environmental justice study area does not exceeds 50 percent; No minority or low-income populations have been identified that would be adversely impacted by the proposed project as determined above. In accordance with the provisions of E.O. 12898 and FHWA Order 6640.23, no further EJ analysis is required.

SECTION 4(f) and SECTION 6(f)

Use of 4(f) Property: No

Source: VDOT Historic Preservation Staff

6(f) Conversion: No Acres of Conversion:

4(f) Comments: Through VDOT coordination with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) and as indicated in a VDOT GIS Integrator there is no use of 4(f) or 6(f) property.

6(f) Comments: The American Battlefield Protection Programs list was reviewed, there is one battlefield (Buckland Mills Battlefield) in the area that used 6(f) money for survey data, a site assessment and brochures. This project will not impact 6 (f) property.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Section 106 Effect Determination: NO ADVERSE EFFECT

Name of Historic Property: Buckland Mills Battlefield (VDHR No. 030-5152) DHR Concurrence date: 02/01/2019

MOA/PA Execution Date: None

Cultural Resource Comments: The VDOT submitted an effect letter to VDHR and Consulting Parties on Jan. 15, 2019. In this letter the VDOT recommended that the project will have no adverse effect on historic resources.

The VDHR concurred with the VDOT's determination that the project as proposed will have no adverse effect on historic resources on 2/01/2019.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Are Waters of the U.S. present? Yes

Linear Feet of Impact: 0

Federal Threatened or Endangered Species:

Northern Long-Eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis)-Federal:FT-May affect, Not Likely to adversely Effect

100 Year Floodplain: Present with no impact Regulatory Floodway Zone: Not Present

Public Water Supplies: Present with no impact Are any tidal waters/wetlands present? No

Wetlands: Present with no impact Tidal Acres of Impact: 0 Tidal Wetland Type: None

Are any Non-Tidal Wetlands Present? No Non Tidal Acres of Impact: 0 Non Tidal Wetland Type: Emergent

Total Wetland Acres of Impacts: 0

Are water quality permits required? Yes

Natural Resource Comments: The proposed project will maintain the existing toe of slope, therefore impacts to WOUS are not anticipated. The project will rely on the findings of the 1/5/2016 Programmatic Biological Opinion for Final 4(d) Rule on the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Activities Exempted from Take Prohibitions to fulfill our project-specific Section 7 responsibilities.

AGRICULTURAL/OPEN SPACE

Open Space Easements: Not Present

Agricultural/Forestal Districts: Not Present

Source: Project Definition Form

Agricultural/Open Space Comments: No Open Space Easements or Agricultural/Forestal Districts have been identified. Data Sources include Virginia Outdoor Foundation and VDOT GIS Integrator.

FARMLAND

NRCS Form CPA-106 Attached? No

NRCS Form CPA-106 not attached because:

Land already in Urban use.

Entire project in area not zoned agriculture.

Alternatives Analysis Required? No

Source: John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District/ VDOT GIS Integrator

Farmland Comments: Project is contained within the VDOT roadway prism which includes shallow bedrock at the surface and not considered suitable per NRCS Soil Data.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive Species in the project area? No

There is potential for invasive species to become established along the limits of disturbance of the project during and following construction. Section 244.02(c) of VDOT's Road and Bridge Specifications (2016) includes provisions intended to control noxious weeds (which includes non-native and invasive species).

While rights-of-ways are at risk from invasive species colonization from adjacent properties, implementing the above provisions would reduce or minimize potential for introduction, proliferation, and spread of invasive species. Additionally, the implementation of best management practices for erosion/sediment control and abatement of pollutant loading would minimize indirect impacts to adjoining communities and habitat by reducing excess nutrient loads that could encourage invasive species proliferation.

Invasive Species Comments: The potential exists for some VDOT projects to further the establishment of invasive species. To minimize the potential for invasive species infestation, projects should be conducted to minimize the area of disturbance, and disturbed sites should be revegetated with desirable species at the earliest opportunity following disturbance. Equally as important, species used for revegetation should not include the highly invasive species that have traditionally been used for revegetating disturbed sites. We recommend VDOT avoid using crown vetch, tall fescue, and autumn olive if at all possible.

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Status and Regional Conformity

Jurisdiction Description: This project lies in an area that is currently in attainment with all of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In accordance with 40 CFR Part 93, transportation conformity requirements are not applicable to the project since the project is not located in a nonattainment or maintenance area for any transportation-related criteria pollutant (i.e., ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide). The following VDEQ air pollution regulations must be adhered to during the construction of this project: 9 VAC 5-130, Open Burning restrictions; and 9 VAC 5-50, Article 1, Fugitive Dust precautions.

Exempt Status

The project is of the type that would be exempt from conformity, as outlined in section 93.126 of the transportation conformity regulation. Therefore, CO, PM, and MSAT analyses are not required for either conformity purposes (per EPA regulation) or NEPA (per FHWA guidance, and VDOT programmatic agreements with FHWA and corresponding protocols specified in the VDOT Resource Document.)

This safety project is exempt under 40 CFR 93.126- HSIP Implementation

NOISE

Noise Scoping Decision: Type III- Noise study not required

Barriers Under Consideration? No

Noise Comments: Project is not Type I, therefore a noise analysis is not required.

RIGHT OF WAY AND RELOCATIONS

Residential Relocations: No

Commercial Relocations: No

Non-Profit Relocations: No

Right of Way required? Yes

Fee Simple: 0

Temporary Easement: 9280

Permanent Easement: 0

Utility Easement: 0

Amount of Right of Way Acreage: 9280

Septic Systems or Wells: Present with no impact **Hazardous Materials:** Not Present

Source: VDOT Hazardous Materials Manager, Project Management and Right of Way Sections

ROW and Relocations Comments: The project will require 9,280 square feet of temporary construction easement to adjust a property entrance.

CUMULATIVE AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

Present or reasonably foreseeable future projects (highway and non-highway) in the area: Yes

Impact same resources as the proposed highway project (i.e. cumulative impacts): No

Indirect (Secondary) impacts: No

Source: Fauquier County Planning Staff

Cumulative and Indirect Impacts Comments: The intensity of the incremental impacts of this project are considered small, when viewed in the context of impacts from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions and would not rise to a level that would cause significant cumulative impacts. There is only one proposed VDOT project just north of the project area 0029-030-829, C501, P101, R201: This project would provide improvements to the US Route 29/215 and Route 29/ 600 Intersections. There are no planned residential or commercial developments at this time.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Substantial Controversy on Environmental Grounds: No

Source: Fauquier County Community Development

Public Hearing: Yes **Type of Hearing:** Willingness

Other Public Involvement Activities: Yes

Type of Public Involvement: Route 29 / New Baltimore Advisory Group Meetings dates are as follows: August 30, 2018, September 27, 2018, October 25, 2018, November 29, 2018, January 24, 2019, February 28, 2019, and March 28, 2019

Public Involvement Comments: The project has been communicated at meetings with Route 29 / New Baltimore Advisory Group. Currently a communications plan is being developed to notify roadway users ahead of the scheduled three week detour. In addition, a project website has been developed at : http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/culpeper/rt._29_fauquier_county.asp.

COORDINATION

State Agencies:

DEQ - Air Division
DEQ - Waste Division
DEQ - Water Division
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Department of Health
Department of Historic Resources
Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Federal Agencies:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Local Entity:

Fauquier County Board Of Supervisors
Fauquier County Administrator
Fauquier Community Development
Fauquier Parks and Recreation
Fauquier Town/City Manager
Fauquier Superintendent of Schools
Fauquier Economic Development Office

Other Coordination Entities:

John Marshall SWCD

This project meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.4 and 23 CFR 771.117 and will not result in significant impacts to the human or natural environment.

Purpose and Need Statement

The purpose of the US Route 15/29 Improvements Project at Vint Hill is to address safety by improving the current substandard stopping sight distance in the northbound lanes of US Route 15/29 (Lee Highway) in Fauquier County, from approximately 0.63 miles south of the Prince William County line to the intersection of Route 215 (Vint Hill Road). The project would address the following needs:

- **Address substandard vertical alignment** - There is a need to improve the vertical alignment of US Route 15/29 in the northbound lanes. The existing vertical curves approaching the US-15/29 and VA-215 intersection provide sight distance for an equivalent 35 mph design speed, well below the 60 mph design speed of the corridor.
- **Improve safety along the northbound approach to the existing signalized intersection** - The US-15/29 and VA-215 intersection consistently ranks as the #1 highest Targeted Safety Need in the Culpeper District with the highest potential for safety improvement based on statewide statistical data. High speed approaches and heavy volumes create conditions where substandard geometrics contribute to frequent crashes due to motorists overdriving conditions. There have been 113 crashes in the 5 year period from 2013-2017 within the approximate project limits.