

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The primary purpose of this project is to improve safety by replacing a structurally deficient bridge and constructing the necessary approaches. The connection at Route 617 will be relocated in order to properly secure guardrail to the bridge railing.

The bridge will be constructed on the existing alignment and traffic will be detoured. The recommended posted detour is approximately 18 miles in length.

The current roadway consists of asphalt concrete with approximately 10-ft lanes and graded shoulders. The new roadway will consist of 11-ft lanes with partially paved shoulders and guardrail, where required. The new structure will be a steel rolled beam bridge approximately 108-ft long and 28-ft wide.

The design of this project is in compliance with the

Stormwater Management Act, stormwater management standards and specifications approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. The construction of the project will conform to the nationwide best management practices, VDOT specifications and special provisions, and 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. Access to all properties will be maintained during construction.

Potential impacts to the flood plains will be evaluated and addressed for this project.

The existing average daily traffic (ADT) volume of Route 778 is 869 vehicles per day (vpd) with a design year ADT of 1086 vpd. The counts are based upon 2013 traffic counts and Design Year 2038.

## Project Graphic



## Estimated Project Cost

Total Cost (approximate):  
**\$2.5 million**

Preliminary Engineering:  
**\$610,610**

Right of Way:  
**\$100,000**

Construction:  
**\$1.8 million**

*This cost is subject to change because development of the project is in early design stages. The project will be financed using state and federal funds.*

## Environmental Review

VDOT's Lynchburg 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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a NEPA Programmatic Categorical Exclusion 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. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation.

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 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 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.

## Anticipated Schedule

**The following schedule has been proposed:**  
**Design hearing comment period** – ends 12/19/2014  
(12/25/2014 in case of inclement weather)  
**Approval of location and design** – 2/6/2015  
**Authorize Right of Way** – 8/23/2015  
**Advertise for construction** – 2/7/2017  
**Construction complete** – June 2018

## Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information in regards to your civil rights on this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager listed in this brochure.

## Right of Way

The construction of this improvement project will require the displacement of no families, businesses or non-profit organizations.

As we further develop the design of this project, additional easements for utility relocation may be required beyond the proposed right of way shown on the public hearing plans. The property owners will be informed of the exact location of the easements 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.

After this meeting, information regarding right of way may be obtained from the right of way contact listed on the back of this brochure.

## Get Involved

Ten days after the date of this public hearing, the public comment period will close. VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of this design hearing. This information, including the hearing summary, will be available for review at the VDOT office address listed below.

After all comments have been addressed, the information received as a result of the 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. Public hearing participants will be notified of this decision by letter.

Project information shared here is available for review after the design public hearing at VDOT's Lynchburg District Office located at 4219 Campbell Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501.

Comments can also be submitted in writing to lynchburginfo@vdot.virginia.gov. Please include "Route 778 Public Hearing Comments" in the subject line. Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today's meeting in order to be included in the design public hearing record.

## Contact Information

<b>Primary Contact:</b> <b>Brian Casto</b>	Project Manager	4219 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	434-856-8276 1-800-367-7623
Lori Snider	Right of Way Manager	4219 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	434-856- 8235 1-800-367-7623
Paula K. Jones	Lynchburg District Office of Communications	4219 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	434-856-8176 1-800-367-7623



© 2014 Commonwealth of Virginia



www.VirginiaDOT.org  
Lynchburginfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Design Public Hearing

## Route 778 (Lowesville Road) Bridge over Buffalo River Amherst County

Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 4-6 p.m.

*Inclement weather date: Monday, December 15*

Temperance Elementary School

1981 Lowesville Road

Amherst, VA 24521

## Public Meeting

**Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing on the replacement of the bridge and necessary approach work on Route 778 (Lowesville Road) over Buffalo River in Amherst County.**

This design public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing agency, to give the department 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.

Comment sheets are 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.

## Project Overview



**Anticipated Cost** – Approximately \$2.5 million

**Purpose** – To improve safety by replacing a structurally deficient bridge

**From** – 0.086 mile south of Route 617

**To** – 0.076 mile north of Route 617

**Total length** – 0.161 mile

State Project – 0778-005-645, P101, R201, C501, B659 UPC-101042  
Federal Project – BR-005-3(118), BR-005-3(119), BR-005-3(120), BR-005-3(120)