

## Categorical Exclusion (CE)

| Project Information                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                          |                          |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Project Name:</b>                   | Rte 659 - BELMONT RIDGE RD<br>WIDENING @ DULLES<br>GREENWAY                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Federal Project#:</b> | STP-5A01(787)            |
| <b>Project Number:</b>                 | 0659-053-154, M501, P101, R201                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Project Type:</b>     | Construction             |
| <b>UPC:</b>                            | 109473                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Charge Number:</b>    |                          |
| <b>Route Number:</b>                   | 659                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Route Type:</b>       | Secondary                |
| <b>Project Limit--From:</b>            | 0.303 mi. south, Rte 267                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>To:</b>               | 0.254 mi. north, Rte 267 |
| <b>Additional Project Description:</b> | The project consists of an interim widening and re-striping of an existing two lane section of Belmont Ridge Road (Rte 659) to provide four travel lanes through the Dulles Greenway (Rte 267)/Rte 659 interchange.               |                          |                          |
| <b>Purpose And Need:</b>               | The project is intended to remove a current traffic bottleneck by providing four travel lanes through the Dulles Greenway interchange to align with the existing four lane segments of roadway on either side of the interchange. |                          |                          |
| <b>District:</b>                       | <b>City/County:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Residency:</b>        |                          |
| Northern Virginia                      | Loudoun                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Leesburg                 |                          |

**Date CE level document approved by VA Division FHWA:** 06/15/2017

**FHWA Contact:** Simkins, John A.

**Project in STIP:** **In Long Range Plan?**

**CE Category 23 CFR 771.117:** d

**Description of Category:** Additional actions which meet the criteria for a CE in the CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1508.4) and paragraph (a) of this section may be designated as CEs only after Administration approval.

**Logical Termini and Independent Utility:**

**Next Phase of Funding Available?** N/A

**Comments:** This project is included in a State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) grouping for Safety/ITS/Operational improvements. The improvements are justifiable and are a reasonable expenditure of funds, even if no additional transportation improvements are made. Therefore, the project has independent utility. The project termini are rational endpoints for environmental review and are logical.

**Typical Section:** The improvements to Rte 659 include two typical sections; one for the bridge over Rte 267, and the second for the approaches, as follows:

1. On the existing bridge, the typical section includes two 11-foot wide through lanes in the northbound direction; two 11-foot wide through lanes in the southbound direction; a 12-foot wide left turn lane in the median providing access from northbound Rte 659 to the Rte 267 westbound on-ramp; and two-foot wide shoulders on either side abutting the bridge parapets.
2. The typical sections for the approaches both include two 12-foot wide through lanes and a raised median which varies in width from four feet to 50 feet. Right turn deceleration lanes are included in three quadrants for on-ramps to Rte 267. Eight-foot wide paved shoulders are included on both sides. North of the bridge, only minor pavement improvements including restriping are required, though the existing traffic signal at the Sycolin Road/Ashburn Farm Parkway intersection will require modification. South of the bridge, realignments to the on-ramp to eastbound Rte 267, and the on-ramp to Rte 267 westbound are required.

The improvements to the ramps include pavement widths from 16 to 26 feet, with paved shoulders ranging from four to eight feet wide. The existing bridge measures 60 feet between parapets.

**Structures:** The project will require a series of new drop inlets, curb inlets, and roadside ditches to provide adequate drainage. Existing drainage infrastructure will be adjusted and/or extended as needed for the new design. Excavation will be required to grade roadside ditches and will likely require rock removal due to the subsurface conditions.



## NATURAL RESOURCES

**Are Waters of the U.S. present?** No

**Linear Feet of Impact:** 0

**Federal Threatened or Endangered Species:**

Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)-Federal:FT-Present with no impact  
Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)-Federal:SOC-Present with no impact  
Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus lucifugus*)-Federal:SOC-Present with no impact

**100 Year Floodplain:** None

**Regulatory Floodway Zone:** Not Present

**Public Water Supplies:** Present with no impact

**Are any tidal waters/wetlands present?** No

**Wetlands:** None

**Wetlands: Acres of Impact:** 0      **Wetland Type:** None

**Are any non-tidal wetlands present?** No

**If yes, type of non-tidal wetland impacts:** None

**Are water quality permits required?** No

**Natural Resource Comments:** VDOT's GIS Integrator identified Department of Natural Heritage sites and suitable habitat for the green floater mussel within 2 miles of the proposed project; however, the drainage associated with the proposed project flows to a watershed that is not designated as green floater habitat. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Official Species List identified the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) as the only federally protected species within 2 miles of the proposed project; however, due to the habitat requirements associated with the NLEB, no impacts are anticipated. In a scoping letter response dated October 23, 2017, Loudoun Water indicated that there is little Loudoun Water infrastructure in the vicinity of the project and thus contamination is unlikely. A sanitary force main exists on the fringes of the project. Care will be taken when operating heavy equipment around Loudoun Water infrastructure.

## AGRICULTURAL/OPEN SPACE

**Open Space Easements:** Not Present

**Agricultural/Forestal Districts:** Not Present

**Source:** Project Definition Form

**Agricultural/Open Space Comments:** Coordination with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF), dated August 03, 2017, indicated there are no existing nor proposed VOF open-space easements within or immediately adjacent to the project area. A search of VDOT's GIS Integrator indicates there are no agricultural/forestal districts in the project area.

## FARMLAND

**NRCS Form CPA-106 Attached?** No

**NRCS Form CPA-106 not attached because:**

**Land already in Urban use.**

**NRCS determined no prime or unique farmland in the project area.**

**Alternatives Analysis Required?** No

**Source:** NRCS Coordination, dated August 04, 2017

**Farmland Comments:** Per NRCS coordination, the project is located in an urban area and no prime or unique farmland will be affected.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

**Invasive Species in the project area?** Unknown

**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 BMPs 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:** Invasive species are likely present in the project area. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has only general information about the distribution of invasives. Many invasive plant species are adapted to take advantage of soil disturbances and poor soil conditions. Non-native invasive plants are found throughout Virginia. Therefore, the potential exists for some VDOT projects to further the establishment of invasive species. Minimizing soil disturbance will help to inhibit the establishment of invasive species.

## AIR QUALITY

### 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.)

The project is exempt under 40 CFR 93.126-HSIP Implementation.

### Air Quality Status and Regional Conformity

Jurisdiction Description: This project is located within a Marginal 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment area, and a volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) Emissions Control Area. As such, all reasonable precautions should be taken to limit the emissions of VOC and NOx. In addition, the following VDEQ air pollution regulations must be adhered to during the construction of this project: 9 VAC 5-130, Open Burning restrictions; 9 VAC 5-45, Article 7, Cutback Asphalt restrictions; and 9 VAC 5-50, Article 1, Fugitive Dust precautions.

## NOISE

**Noise Scoping Decision:** Type III- Noise study not required

**Barriers Under Consideration?** No

**Noise Comments:** The project scope includes the addition of through lanes measuring 1500 linear feet, which is less than the 2500-foot Type I threshold. As such, the project is Type III, and a noise study is not required.

## RIGHT OF WAY AND RELOCATIONS

**Residential Relocations:** No

**Commercial Relocations:** No

**Non-Profit Relocations:** No

**Right of Way required?** No

**Septic Systems or Wells:** Not Present

**Hazardous Materials:** Not Present

**Source:** Project Manager; Correspondence with VDOT Loudoun County Project Development Engineer; American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)

**ROW and Relocations Comments:** No families, persons, businesses, farms, or non-profit organizations will be displaced as a result of this project. The Dulles Greenway Comprehensive Agreement (CA) between VDOT and Dulles Greenway property owner Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II) provides VDOT the authority to work on TRIP II property. The terms of the CA require that appropriate coordination with TRIP II parties occur when projects will improve intersecting streets within the limits of a Dulles Greenway interchange. Therefore, no permanent or temporary construction easements are required for VDOT to complete the work required on TRIP II property, and coordination as guided by the CA will be followed. A Phase I ESA dated August 2017 found no recognized environmental concerns (RECs). If any solid or hazardous waste is generated/encountered during construction, all applicable federal, state, and county regulations for their disposal will be followed.

## CUMULATIVE AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

**Present or reasonably foreseeable future projects (highway and non-highway) in the area:** No

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

**Indirect (Secondary) impacts:** Yes

**Source:** VDOT Project Manager; VDOT Six Year Improvement Plan and Constrained Long Range Plan

**Cumulative and Indirect Impacts Comments:** Indirect impacts of the project include increased economic growth due to better traffic circulation and urbanization. The intensity of the incremental impacts of the 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 substantial cumulative or indirect impacts.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

**Substantial Controversy on Environmental Grounds:** No

**Source:** Agency Scoping Comments

**Public Hearing:** No

**Other Public Involvement Activities:** Yes

**Type of Public Involvement:** Notice of Willingness to Hold a Public Hearing

**Public Involvement Comments:** VDOT will post a Notice of Willingness to hold a Public Hearing in December 2017, following completion of the NEPA document. The NEPA document will be made available for public review at this time. If requests for a Public Hearing are received, one will be scheduled.

**COORDINATION**

**State Agencies:**

Department of Environmental Quality  
DEQ - Air Division  
DEQ - Waste Division  
DEQ - Water Division  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Department of Forestry  
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
Department of Health  
Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
Virginia Outdoors Foundation

**Federal Agencies:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Local Entity:**

**Other Coordination Entities:**

NOVA Parks  
Loudoun County Dept. of Family Services  
Loudoun County Dept. of Transportation and Capital  
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
Loudoun County Dept. of Fire and Rescue  
Loudoun County Dept. of Planning and Zoning  
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce  
Loudoun Water  
Loudoun County Dept. of Economic Development  
Loudoun County Health Department  
Loudoun County Schoolboard  
Loudoun County Public Schools Pupil Transportation  
Loudoun County Dept. of General Services  
Sanders Corner Elementary School  
Loudoun County Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
Virginia State Police Department

**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.**