Get Involved

The public comment period will close ten (10) days after this public hearing, on November 5, 2016. VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the public hearing.

Comments can also be submitted in writing to Ricardo.Correa@vdot.virginia.gov. Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today’s meeting (November 5, 2016) in order to be included in the public hearing information meeting record.

Please visit the VDOT website for additional project information: www.64highrise.org

Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) Design Public Hearing on proposed capacity improvements to Interstate 64 and the High Rise Bridge in the City of Chesapeake.

This public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project. VDOT strives to ensure all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them.

At this public hearing you will have the opportunity to review the project exhibits on display and to ask questions of the project team. VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions. A court reporter is available to record your verbal comments.

A comment sheet is 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.

Written questions or comments should be placed in the comment box or mailed to the address provided on the comment form.

Project Overview

Cost – $600 million (approximate)
Purpose – Capacity improvements to Interstate 64 and the High Rise Bridge in Chesapeake
From – 0.6 mile east of I-264 (at Bowers Hill)
To – 0.9 mile east of I-464
Total length – 8.75 miles
Improvements – Addition of one proposed HOT lane in each direction (in existing median) and a new high-level, fixed-span bridge to the south of the existing High Rise Bridge
The primary purpose of this project is to increase capacity and mobility, and to improve safety and operational deficiencies along the Interstate 64 corridor in Chesapeake, while minimizing the impact to the traveling public during construction.

The proposed improvements include the addition of one proposed HOT lane in each direction in the median of the existing interstate, bringing the corridor to six lanes, and a new high-level High Rise Bridge with a fixed span. The new bridge will be built to the south of the existing bridge. The existing interstate lanes will be improved with an asphalt overlay.

High-occupancy toll lanes (HOT lanes) would be available free of charge to high-occupancy vehicles (HOV 2+). High-occupancy toll lanes (HOT lanes) would be available free of charge to high-occupancy vehicles (HOV 2+). Non-HOV 2+ vehicles could use the HOT lanes by paying a variable fee that is adjusted in response to travel demands.

The project will be designed to accommodate a future variable fee that is adjusted in response to travel demands.

During construction, two lanes of traffic will be maintained in each direction at all times.

The project also includes:

- Replacement and realignment of the Great Bridge Boulevard Bridge
- Six bridge widenings – over Military Highway, Yadkin Road and Shell Road
- Drainage improvements, including a tide gate at the Gilmerton Canal, and stormwater management facilities
- Noise analysis and consideration of noise barrier walls

The proposed improvements will also add capacity to a key evacuation route and improve safety by reducing congestion.

VDOT has determined the use of design-build contracting will expedite delivery. The design-builder will perform final design, right of way acquisition, utility relocation, permit acquisition and construction. The design-build approach will allow some of those activities to be done concurrently.

During construction, two lanes of traffic will be maintained in each direction at all times.

The project is in the early stages. This cost is subject to change as development of the project is in the early stages.

The construction of the I-64/High Rise Bridge capacity improvements will require acquisition of right of way for drainage and storm water management facilities. These facilities may require partial acquisition of 20 parcels. Right of Way acquisition and utility relocation will be performed by the design-builder in accordance with VDOT standards.

Displays at this meeting show the extent of right of way that may be needed as the project moves forward. As the final design is developed, additional easements and right of way may be required beyond what is shown on the plans. Property owners will be informed of the exact location of the right of way and easements during the right of way acquisition process prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in IV of the Civil Rights

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Environmental Review

In cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), VDOT has evaluated options to improve the I-64 corridor from I-664/264 to I-464, including the High Rise Bridge in the City of Chesapeake, through the Interstate 64 High Rise Bridge Corridor Study Environmental Assessment (EA). FHWA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this project on August 22, 2016. A FONSI is issued when environmental analysis and interagency review during the EA process find a project to have no significant impacts on the quality of the environment. The FONSI document is the EA modified to reflect all applicable comments and responses.

This project is the first of two phases of the approved alternative from the EA. The EA document includes information from various technical reviews, including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise and cultural resources.

Following the approval of the EA, VDOT’s Hampton Roads District Environmental Office has performed specific 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 project will continue to be coordinated with appropriate federal, state and local agencies as part of various environmental review processes. All required environmental clearance and permits will be obtained prior to construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approval, and implementation of VDOT’s specifications and standard best management practices will protect the environment during construction.

Total Cost: $600 million (approximate)

Preliminary Engineering: $20 million

Right of Way Acquisition, Utility Relocation: $40 million

Final Design and Construction: $500 million

Construction Management and Oversight: $40 million

This cost is subject to change as development of the project is in the early stages.

Civil Rights

Representatives from VDOT are present to discuss the project and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of VDOT to ensure all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them. VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Right of Way

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