Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing on the proposed roadway widening project on Route 612 Longhill Road in James City County. This project will run 1,082 feet past Olde Towne Road to 465 feet east of Williamsburg West Drive, for a project length of 0.691 mile.

This design 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 that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them.

Questions concerning the right-of-way relocation or acquisition process should be directed to Mr. Randy Friedland, Regional Right-of-Way Manager, at the contact information given in the table below. All other questions or comments should be directed to Mr. Kenneth McKinna, at the contact information given below.

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. Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today's hearing (December 6, 2016) in order to be included in the public hearing meeting record.

Public hearing participants will be notified of this decision by letter.

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.

The public comment period will close ten (10) days after this public hearing on December 16, 2016. VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of this hearing. Comments can also be submitted in writing to Kenneth.McKInna@VDOT.Virginia.gov or mailed to the address provided on the comment form. Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today’s hearing (December 6, 2016) in order to be included in the public hearing meeting record.

Please visit the VDOT website for additional project information:
http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/hamptonroads/longhill_road.asp
The 2014 Longhill Road Corridor Study proposed various improvements to Longhill Road to relieve congestion, improve safety, and enhance other forms of transit.

Based on the study, this project will widen Longhill Road from two lanes to four lanes, median divided typical section from 1,082 feet west of the Olde Towne Road/Devon Road intersection to 465 feet east of Williamsburg West Drive. A 10-foot shared-use path along the north side of the roadway will also be included. The design will maintain and/or implement desirable access management strategies, such as right-in/right-out/right-included. The design will maintain and/or implement desirable use path, crosswalks and pedestrian push buttons. The outside lane will have extra width to accommodate cyclists.

Traffic will be maintained with a minimum of a single lane in each direction throughout the project duration. During construction, access will be maintained for local businesses and residences.

This project is in the early design stages and cost is subject to change. The project will be financed using state and federal funds and was selected for funding using the Commonwealth’s new SMART SCALE project selection process.

Environmental Review

A Categorical Exclusion (CE) has been prepared for this project. This document is available for public review here tonight. Through on-site inspections, and coordination with federal, state and local agencies, VDOT (with concurrence from the Federal Highway Administration) has determined that the proposed work will not have any significant environmental impacts.

All applicable permits required for impacts to existing wetlands will be acquired prior to project construction. All impacts will be mitigated as required by the permitting.

During construction, all reasonable efforts will be made to protect the environment with respect to dust, silt and erosion. Construction of this project will conform to nationwide best management practices, VDOT’s Road and Bridge Specification and the guidelines of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), as well as regulations set forth by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regarding erosion and sedimentation and storm water management.

On behalf of the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has taken into account the effects of this undertaking on historic properties and has consulted with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (VA SHPO), the director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. In order to identify historic properties that are within the project's area of potential effect, VDOT conducted architectural and archaeological surveys of the project area. For a resource to be considered a historic property, it must be eligible for the National Register. Therefore, since no historic properties are located within the project's area of potential effect, the project will not have an effect on historic properties.

Estimated Project Cost

Total Cost: $19.8 million (approximate)

- Preliminary Engineering of Roadway: $1,577,000
- Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance and Utility Relocation: $3,437,000
- Construction: $14,786,000

This project is subject to change. The project will be financed using state and federal funds and was selected for funding using the Commonwealth’s new SMART SCALE project selection process.

Civil Rights

Representatives from VDOT are present to discuss the project and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of VDOT to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them.

If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT’s Civil Rights Division at 757-925-2519, TTY/TTDD 711.

Right of Way

The construction of this project will not require the displacement of any families, businesses or nonprofit organizations.

As we further develop and finalize the development 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 acquisition is discussed in VDOT’s brochure entitled “Right of Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants.” Copies of this brochure are available from a VDOT right-of-way agent at the Design Public Hearing and will be provided to all affected landowners. After this meeting, information regarding right-of-way may be obtained from the contact listed on this brochure.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:

- Public Hearing – December 6, 2016
- Begin Right-of-Way Activities – May 2017
- Award Contract & Start Construction – April 2018

Expected Schedule

- Anticipated Schedule
- December 6, 2016
- April 2017
- August 2017
- December 2017
- April 2018
- December 2018