The public comment period will close twelve (12) days after this public hearing, on February 29, 2016. VDOT will review and evaluate any information and comments received as a result of this hearing. Comments can also be submitted in writing to N.Geouge@VDOT.Virginia.gov or mailed to the address provided on the comment form. Information must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 12 calendar days of today's hearing (February 17, 2016) in order to be included in the public hearing meeting record.

After all comments have been addressed, and after receiving endorsement from the Southampton County Department of Engineering, 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.

All project information presented at today’s hearing, including the meeting summary, will be available for review at the VDOT Hampton Roads District Office located at 1700 North Main Street, Suffolk, VA 23434 and at the VDOT Franklin Residency located at 23116 Meherrin Road, Courtland, VA 23837. Please call the District Office at (757) 925-3624 or the Residency Office at (757) 346-3073 prior to visiting to ensure the availability of staff to assist you.

Questions concerning the right-of-way relocation or acquisition process should be directed to 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 Ms Diane Geouge, at the contact information given below.

Please visit the VDOT website for additional project information: http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/hamptonroads/route_671_general_thomas_highway_over_nottoway_river_bridge_replacement.asp

Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) design public hearing on the proposed project plans for the replacement of the two bridges over the Nottoway River on Route 671 (General Thomas Highway).

The project will take place on Route 671 on the two bridges in Southampton County. The project construction limits will extend from 0.700 mile west of (Route 650) to 0.007 mile west of (Route 650).

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.

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

Estimated Cost (Staged) – $19 million
Estimated Cost (Detour) – $14.2 million
 Purpose – To replace the existing structurally-deficient Nottoway River bridges with two new bridges that meet current design standards
From – 0.700 mile west of (Route 650)
To – 0.007 mile west of (Route 650)
Total length – 0.693 mile stretch of roadway
 Improvements – Construction of two new bridges with two lanes, and wider shoulders. Other improvements include new roadway approaches and new storm water management facilities.
**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is located on Route 671 (General Thomas Highway) in Southampton County. Route 671 (General Thomas Highway) is a rural major collector roadway with a current average daily traffic (ADT) of 3,350 vehicles per day, eight percent of which are trucks. The ADT is projected to be 9,300 vehicles per day in design year 2041. The existing right of way is 105 feet to 130 minimum, and the posted speed limit is 55 mph.

The purpose of the project is to replace two existing structurally-deficient bridges over the Nottoway River with two new bridges that meet current design standards. The proposed bridges will be constructed within the same roadway corridor. Additional right of way and utility easements will be required to widen bridges and approaches.

The roadway across the proposed bridges will carry two 12-foot lanes with 9-foot shoulders. The project also includes roadway improvements to the approaches to the bridges and new storm water management facilities.

We are reviewing two options for maintenance of traffic:
- Staged construction will consist of one lane of traffic to be maintained on the bridge during construction. Expect delays at construction sites.
- Detoured traffic will greatly decrease cost and duration of the project and save approximately $4,800,000. The length of construction time for the detour will last approximately 24-30 months.

Residents will be notified of traffic impacts in advance of construction.

---

**Environmental Review**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy (NEPA), a Progammatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) has been prepared for this project. This document is available for public review here tonight. Through on-site investigations, 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 Conservation and Recreation 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. Information regarding historic properties within the project area is available at this public hearing.

**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 projects and systems 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.

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 District Civil Rights Office listed on the back of the brochure.

**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 temporary construction easements and/or 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 booklet are available from a VDOT Right-of-Way agent. After this meeting, information regarding right-of-way may be obtained from the contact listed on this brochure.

---

**Estimated Project Cost - Staged Construction**

- Total Cost: $19 million (approximate)
  - Preliminary Engineering of Roadway: $1.1 million
  - Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance and Utility Relocation: $465,853
  - Construction: $17.3 million

**Estimated Project Cost - Detour**

- Total Cost: $14.2 million (approximate)
  - Preliminary Engineering of Roadway: $1.1 million
  - Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance and Utility Relocation: $461,111
  - Construction: $12.5 million

**Anticipated Schedule**

- Public Hearing – February 17, 2016
- Begin Right-of-Way Activities – Summer 2017
- Award Contract & Start Construction – Summer 2019

**Construction: $17.3 million**

**Utility Relocation: $465,853**

**Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance and Utility Relocation: $461,111**

**Total Cost: $19 million**

**Construction: $12.5 million**

**Utility Relocation: $465,653**

**Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance and Utility Relocation: $461,111**

**Total Cost: $14.2 million**