

Parking Garage Repairs over I-66: Questions and Comments from October through November 2022

Category:	Question/ Comment:	Response:
Bike/Pedestrian	Please avoid any closures of Custis trail during the project.	There are no plans to close the Custis Trail due to the construction of these repairs.
	Please include pedestrian and cyclist options as well and consider aesthetics (potentially local art) in the design.	This project focuses on needed structural repairs. Enhancements such as artwork or pedestrian facilities are not precluded by this work but are outside the scope and budget.
	Design is good. it's important to repair this now before more extensive damage. Please minimize any disruption to the Custis Trail, which I use regularly.	There are no plans to close the Custis Trail due to the construction of these repairs.
Construction	Please consider reduced speeds in the work zone.	
Construction Bids	If bids are high, please consider rejecting them and re-advertise for bidding.	VDOT will evaluate the responsiveness of bids at the time they are received.
Construction Noise	If there is prolonged loud construction noise, please consider noise abatement for the high school and surrounding homes.	The contractor will adhere to the Arlington County noise ordinance as specified in Chapter 15 of the Arlington County Code . https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/07/Ch15_NoiseControl.pdf
	While the presentation addressed that two lanes of traffic will continue to flow on I-66 during construction and schedules would be coordinated with Washington-Liberty High School, what noise consideration steps will be taken for surrounding residents? Will there be a set start and end time for nighttime and weekend work?	
	The presentation addresses W&L considerations with respects to noise. It references after hour construction/overnight. What considerations are being made for neighbors?	
	What noise consideration steps will be taken for surrounding residents? Will there be a set start and end time for nighttime and weekend work?	
	What times of the day and what days will work be conducted? Please avoid loud work in the early morning and night hours to the extent possible.	The construction schedule will be developed as the design progresses and the contractor will adhere to the Arlington County noise ordinance as specified in Chapter 15 of the Arlington County Code .
Construction Parking	Is the lay down area on 15th street or within the parking garage?	The laydown areas/storage/construction parking will be behind barrier along the I-66 shoulders and in small sections of the

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	<p>Where will construction equipment be stored/parked? We have parking issues in our neighborhood, especially on 15th St N and N Stafford St. Kindly request that this be taken into consideration and not adversely impact Cherrydale neighborhood.</p>	<p>garage itself or WLHS. Construction Equipment will not park along neighborhood streets.</p>
<p>How will this effect parking in the area/ neighborhood. We already have so many construction vehicles because of residential building. We have lots of small children that live on the street and lots of congestion already with the high school, school buses, private school and traffic into Ballston.</p>		
<p>Please do not allow constructions vehicles, workers or students to park on 15th, 17th, n randolph or n stafford. The neighborhoods are already congested enough.</p>		
<p>To avoid exacerbating parking issues, please do not park construction related equipment and automobiles on 15th St N and N Stafford St. This is important to near neighbors who are already impacted by traffic generated by drop off/pick up from the High School as well as the students and faculty who park on N. 15th St. between N. Quincy and N. Glebe Rd.</p>		
<p>Construction Schedule</p>	<p>The last Civitan Flea Market in 2023 will be held on November 4th and it would be much appreciated if the repairs inside the garage could be done after November 5th.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, the winter months are not well suited to concrete repair as warmer months. The design team is aware that the parking garage serves other community members and supports other activities including the monthly Flea Market. The contractor will be required to coordinate with WLHS staff for construction schedule that will include the Community Flea Market. A portion of the garage will be available for the Community Flea Market and access will be provided.</p>
<p>Will there be a set start and end time for nighttime and weekend work?</p>	<p>Consider doing as much of the renovation work in the summer when school is not in session.</p>	<p>The construction schedule will be developed as the design progresses and the contractor will adhere to the Arlington County noise ordinance as specified in Chapter 15 of the Arlington County Code.</p>
<p>A very well done plan....question though....why not do this during summer of 2023?</p>		<p>While summer is ideal for construction, especially for school related facilities, the time required for completion of design,</p>

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		<p>review, finalization, advertising and bidding will not allow the construction to begin until fall of 2023.</p>
	<p>Why wait so long to fix it? Isn't this a public safety issue? What happens if this garage collapses not to mention the drivers on 66. I am not sure why you even have to ask the public considering that there are issues impacting the structural integrity of the deck and the potential impact to drivers on 66. This seems extremely dangerous to wait another year to fix.</p>	<p>Extensive testing and inspection was completed on the garage and there are no imminent public safety concerns.</p>
	<p>Can you start this project summer instead of when school starts back? Commuters had to deal with 66E being down to one lane multiple times in the year from sept 2020 for several months during the lane widening process. I don't remember the exact duration of the project, but I remember months of having to go the long way to my kid's school in the morning to avoid 66-it tacked on 8 minutes making our commute to their school, 23 minutes instead of the 15 it takes on 66 and over months that added up. taking 66 was a gamble, some days traffic was at a standstill in the morning. I hope it's true you're keeping 2 lanes open, but I don't see how you will accomplish that based on the lane widening project. Starting in the summer would at least alleviate 3 months of people trying to get their kids to school in the morning and give back 3 months to kids who rely on that parking garage. As an aside-very happy the lanes were widened but it was painful and i'm concerned this will turn into that.</p>	<p>While summer is ideal for construction, especially for school related facilities, the time required for completion of design, review, finalization, advertising and bidding will not allow the construction to begin until fall of 2023. While the lane shifts for the work along the I-66 level will reduce the available shoulder width and likely create a slight speed reduction, the overall capacity of travel on I-66 will be preserved except for a few short duration periods late in the night/very early in the morning.</p>
<p>Design</p>	<p>Would it please be possible to install additional striping on the inter-platform ramps? Left and right edgelines would be extremely helpful. This additional longitudinal delineation would be extra beneficial here due to the high percentage of newer drivers (high school students).</p>	<p>Since the ramps are one way and low speed, edge lines would provide minimal benefit and add maintenance needs.</p>
	<p>Would it be possible to replace all of the w-beam guardrail along the outside columns along both directions of I-66? Replaced guardrail will provide additional protection for motorists and the garage columns, as well as reducing the severity and duration of impacts of future crashes.</p>	<p>The guardrail along I-66 should be assessed and maintained by VDOT maintenance staff rather than this project. This project focuses on repairs to the structure.</p>

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	<p>I would consider replacing handrails on all stairs</p>	<p>The team has reviewed the condition of the handrails, and at this time it was determined that handrails do not need replacement.</p>
	<p>Consider stripping the top deck for parking, with option for "sports" use on weekends. Rarely is the "sports" space being used compared to the use of the structure for parking.</p>	<p>This project focuses on repair of the garage for its current use. Major changes in the capacity, function, and purpose of the garage are issues that be discussed with Arlington County Public Schools.</p>
	<p>I would love to see mirrors put up in the stairwells. As a female who uses the stairs at night I have encountered several aggressive individuals (presumably homeless) and the line of sight makes it impossible to tell if someone is in the stairwell. Traffic sized mirrors would allow me to see if someone engaged in concerning behavior was in there and avoid that stairwell or also to allow others to see if someone was in trouble. Thank you for making it a safer experience.</p>	<p>Your request about installation of mirrors will be considered and accommodated if feasible.</p>
<p>Drainage</p>	<p>There is significant ice and pooling near the stairwell - which creates a safety hazard. Please address during the renovation/restoration. Also, significant leaking to the deck beneath the top deck is a concern.</p>	<p>The ponding/puddling described is a potential hazard, especially in winter and at night. The regular cleaning of the drains and inlets along the pedestrian ramps is part of the ongoing maintenance responsibility of ACPS. Most of the other leaking beneath the top deck should be addressed by the replacement of the expansion joint seals.</p>
<p>Environment</p>	<p>The top level of the garage is impermeable. This creates stormwater run-off into area streams and the Chesapeake Bay. People infrequently use much of the top level for parking.</p> <p>To reduce automobile usage, traffic congestion, fuel consumption, air pollution and climate change, reduce the number of parking spaces. This will create incentives for people to use transit. Make much or all of the top level biophilic. Leave only a small portion of the level available for the farmers market and active recreation. Add soil and flowering native plants to the top level.</p> <p>To support the Arlington County Board's 2016 "Monarch</p>	<p>This project focuses on repair of the garage for its current use. Major changes in the capacity, function, and purpose of the garage are issues that Arlington County would need to address as part of its long term planning and capital budgets.</p>

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	<p>Pledge" https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/County-Board/Board-Actions/Proclamations/Monarch-Pledge-Day-2016), plant much Common Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca). Monarch butterfly caterpillars feed only on milkweed. Reproducing monarchs prefer to lay eggs on Common Milkweed. This is the only milkweed species that thrives in Arlington's natural areas</p> <p>Create a large natural area containing native plants that will support monarch butterflies, honeybees and other pollinators on the top level of the garage. The natural area will benefit the community and add biophilia to the garage. To also add biophilia, plant native vines that will ascend from the ground on trellises and will hang down from the top level.</p> <p>Leave only a small percentage space on the top level available for recreation and the farmers market. Do not put any parking spaces on the top level. This will minimize the top level's impermeable surfaces and stormwater runoff.</p> <p>The reduction in parking spaces will provide incentives for the use of transit, rather than automobiles. This reduction will alleviate traffic congestion on I-66 and area streets. It will also reduce fuel usage, air pollution and climate change.</p>	
Lighting	<p>Currently there is extremely poor lighting under the overpasses onto 66 even in full daylight. Causes quick braking after merge from gleebe ramp. Please put up temporarily lights to drivers on 66 don't crash during construction. It is terrible as it is</p>	<p>The lighting along I-66 is inconsistent and in poor condition. For this project, the cost of replacing that was beyond the available budget. The contractor will need to provide temporary lighting when working at night.</p>
Noise	<p>Can sound absorbing strategies be incorporated? When a load vehicle passes, the sounds reverberate and are very, very loud.</p>	<p>The scope of this project is to improve the structural integrity of the garage and sound barriers/walls are not required per VDOT</p>

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	<p>It would be great if some sound-deadening or noise abatement could be incorporated in the lower sections of the garage. The noise from I-66 below can be deafening at times.</p>	<p>and Federal guidance. They are typically required when adding traffic lanes.</p>
<p>Please consider adding noise abatement materials directly under the overpass as part of this project. Many vehicles speed in this particular straightaway of I-66 causing engine revving and loud mufflers to reverberate and amplify under the overpass. The noise is so loud that it can be heard inside homes on 15th St N. This ongoing issue has gone unresolved.</p>		
<p>Please ensure noise mitigation is part of this process. The noise from 66 is significant from and underneath the garage even 2 blocks up the hill. Also the garage is ugly - anything to make it more attractive is welcomed. Signage is lacking.</p>		
<p>Noise abatement materials need to be part of the design. Speeding cars, with engines revving and loud mufflers, create enormous amounts of noise on I-66, often late at night, and this noise seems to be amplified because of the parking deck. The noise is so loud that it can be heard inside homes on 15th St N as well as those much further up the hill on N Randolph St.</p>		
<p>Could you add something to help with noise control. Under the parking garage vehicles speeding echoes and can be heard up to 2 blocks away.</p>		
<p>Please consider taking the opportunity to add noise abatement materials directly under the overpass as part of this project given the very high noise levels residents have to live with today.</p>		
<p>The noise caused by vehicles passing under the parking garage on I-66 is very loud and can be heard even one block away inside my house. I am often woken up by the noise of a racing motorcycle, breaking tractor trailer or passing emergency response vehicle. Is there a plan to include and noise attenuation on the bottom of the parking structure to dampen this noise?</p>		

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	<p>Thank you for opening the project up to input. There sadly is A LOT of noise under this structure on 66. Cars/motorcycles will rev their loud external muffler tips as they are speeding down this straight portion of 66. These very loud cars / motorcycles will use this structure to echo/amplify their sound. Our family hears this noise all hours of the day, especially at night. And we live a couple blocks away and can hear this in our home with the windows closed (they are also brand new windows!) What noise abatement plans are there for under this parking garage? The tech has to be better than the 80s. It is greatly impacting our neighborhood.</p>	
<p>Notification</p>	<p>Will surrounding residences be notified directly in advance of project commencement? If so, how?</p>	<p>VDOT will issue a news release announcing that construction is underway, and will communicate via social media and the project webpage.</p>
	<p>Will the project notify neighbors who will be greatly impacted? Some are right across the street from this parking garage.</p>	
	<p>Thanks for all of this information. My name is (name redacted) and I serve as the Executive Director of Restoration Anglican Church at 1815 N. Quincy St. We use the parking lot over I-66 every Sunday for parking, at the request of Arlington County. I'd love to be kept in the loop on this project, especially since I noticed you plan to close the parking lot on weekends and evenings. We only use the parking lot on weekends and evenings so that may impact our usage quite a bit. Thanks in advance!</p>	<p>Thank you for that information. The team will work to maintain at least a portion of the parking for Sundays throughout the project. Please continue to coordinate with Washington Liberty HS, which will be in direct coordination with the contractor during construction.</p>
<p>Parking</p>	<p>Have not seen any renditions or discussions of preliminary design. Please communicate these plans more widely. Please retain or expand number of parking spaces for staff, students, and public. Please keep low profile within the neighborhood. Consider a design that minimizes difficult turns and doesn't waste valuable space. Don't do anything stupid like add tennis, basketball, or pickleball courts. It's a parking garage, not a park.</p>	<p>The plan is not to change the circulation patterns or location and number of parking spaces. Current uses will remain. No renderings will be provided, as the repairs will not noticeably change the structure other than the surfaces of the structure and stairs.</p>
	<p>It's probably too complicated and/or expensive, but a completely new or expanded parking and community space would have been great.</p>	<p>The plan is not to change the circulation patterns or location and number of parking spaces. Current uses will remain.</p>

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Schedule	<p>There is a community market held in the garage the first Saturday of each month from April to November. Please make sure that activities for the market are not disrupted by construction and parking space limitations as much as possible. THE market is slowly recovering from being closed by the pandemic and needs your consideration to help it get back to the great community activity it has been for 30 + years. thank you</p>	<p>We are aware of the importance of the garage hosting the Community Market and the Construction Contract will require coordination and accommodation of the community market during construction.</p>
Support	<p>All for it!</p> <p>Thank you so much for going ahead with this project to fix the parking garage.</p> <p>The project itself, the design, timeline, and preparations all seem highly necessary and excellent to me.</p> <p>I approve and support VDOT's Parking Garage Repairs over I-66 Project. The aspect that I love about VDOT's Parking Garage Repairs over I-66 Project is that the spalling on the median columns will be repaired which will reduce future maintenance activities.</p> <p>So glad that VDOT is taking on this project to preserve and maintain the I-66 parking garage. It serves critical parking needs for W-L high school. Glad that plans are in place to minimize disruption to those using the I-66 roadway and those who rely on the garage to park.</p>	<p>Support noted. We appreciate your comments.</p>
Other	<p>I think it should include new housing instead of parking</p>	<p>This project will preserve but not add parking spaces. Housing is well outside the scope of the project</p>