

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Analyses

Project: Telegraph Road at Hayfield Road in Fairfax County
State Project: 0611-029-467, P101, R201, C501
UPC: 116086

Potential Pedestrian Safety Considerations

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is committed to improving safety and mobility for all road users in Virginia. Safe and comfortable street design for people walking and bicycling is one of the strategies VDOT is using to achieve these goals.

A public information meeting (PIM) was held on January 26, 2022 for the Telegraph Road at Hayfield Road Improvement Project. Three alternatives were presented and pedestrian safety slides can be found in the PIM presentation on the project website. During the design process in which the three original alternatives were developed, VDOT and FCDOT staff collaborated frequently on decisions regarding pedestrian safety accommodations. As has been noted previously, the proposed crosswalk lengths either remain unchanged or reduced for each alternative (when compared to existing conditions), and sidewalk widths and corresponding buffers (where included in the alternative) are designed to meet all applicable safety standards. In addition, high visibility crosswalk markings would be retained at the Telegraph Road and Hayfield Road intersection for all alternatives.

While the project team maintains that the original 3 alternatives proposed for the intersection would allow for safe pedestrian crossings, the team also developed two (2) additional alternatives that focus specifically on pedestrian improvements with no roadway widening: 1) Pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Telegraph Road and Hayfield Road; and 2) Improvements at the intersection and linear pedestrian improvements along Telegraph Road. All five of the alternatives are included in the companion online survey.

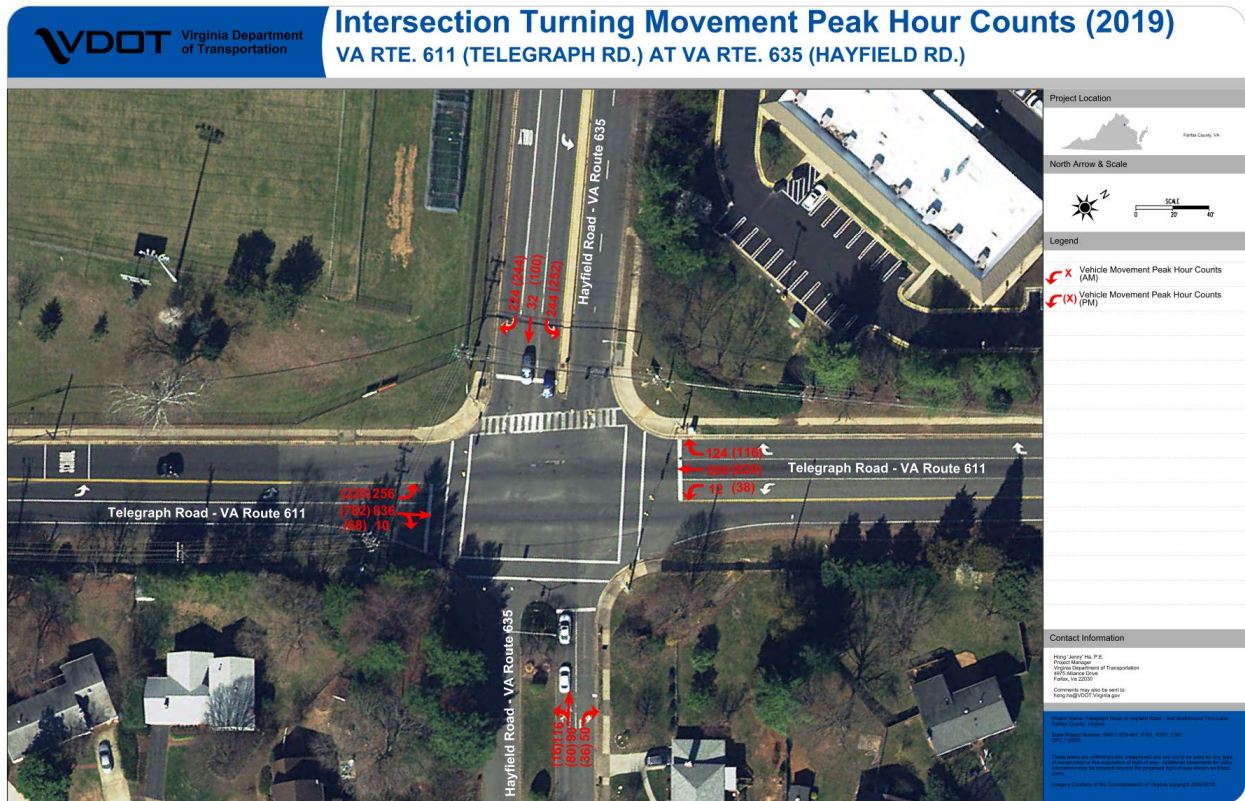
In addition to the above, additional pedestrian safety items listed below will be investigated further once a design alternative is selected for the project:

- “No Turn on Red” Signs at each approach at the intersection of Telegraph Road and Hayfield Road
- Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) that gives pedestrians a dedicated WALK interval to enter the crosswalk ahead of the vehicular green indications
- Updated flashing beacons on school signs in advance of the school zone
- Speed Cameras within the school zone (it is noted that VDOT does not install speed cameras; these are typically implemented by Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) following established criteria, under VDOT Permit, and operated and maintained by FCPS)
- Review mid-block crosswalk between the Hayfield Secondary School and the Hayfield Elementary School

Traffic Analyses / Traffic Counts (2022)

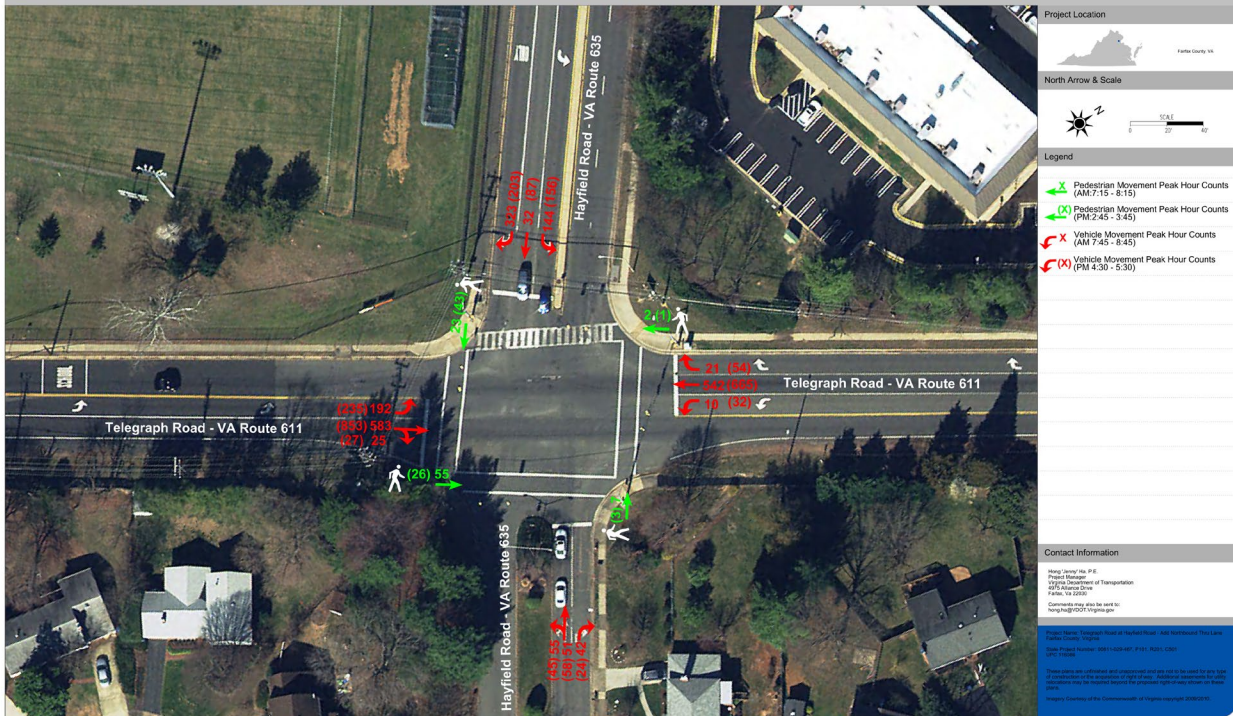
Original traffic data for the project was collected in 2019 as indicated in the exhibit below. In order to assess potential impacts to traffic volumes due to the global pandemic, new traffic data was collected in June 2022 prior to the Hayfield Secondary School and the Hayfield Elementary School summer closures.

The data collection included counts of traffic, pedestrian volumes, and observations/documentation of conditions (such as queuing). While the new data did show an overall drop in traffic volumes in both the AM and PM peak hours, northbound through traffic volumes increased by approximately 9%. As has been previously noted, this project was initiated to address existing congestion issues, particularly in the northbound direction.



The exhibit below shows the traffic volumes collected in 2022. Volumes in the queues were not included in the traffic counts provided here. Per raw videos from the traffic counts, traffic backed up and queued along northbound Telegraph Road during peak hours that extend south of Broadmoor Street. Per the site observation on Monday, June 6, 2022, there were backups and queuing along NB Telegraph Road that started between Jeff Todd Way and Leaf Road during the AM peak hour. However, it is noted that the Secondary School had early release that day due to Exams, which most likely impacted the PM Peak Hour.

Intersection Turning Movement Peak Hour Counts (2022) VA RTE. 611 (TELEGRAPH RD.) AT VA RTE. 635 (HAYFIELD RD.)



These backups and queues could also be influenced by the pedestrian movements crossing Telegraph Road at Broadmoor St and at the Mid-Block Crosswalk (controlled by Police) and not solely due to the Traffic Signal at the intersection with Hayfield Road. Below is a table showing a breakdown of the times when Police were approximately located at the Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing:

Date	Morning/Arrival	Afternoon/Departure
Wednesday (6/1/22)	7:15 – 8:05	2:45 – 3:10
Thursday (6/2/22)	7:30 – 8:00	2:40 – 3:15
Friday (6/3/22, HSS early release)	7:25 – 7:55	10:20 AM – 10:47 AM
Monday (6/6/22, HSS early release)	7:20 – 8:00	10:55 AM – 11:33 AM
Tuesday(6/7/22, HSS early release)	7:15 – 8:02	10:56 AM – 11:35 AM

In summary, while certain factors/changes with regard to traffic have been noted, the updated traffic volumes would indicate that the original issue which drove the initiation of the project remains, and therefore merits consideration of retaining the alternatives which address northbound capacity issues.