

Get Involved

Following this initial Public Information Meeting, VDOT will evaluate all comments received from the public, and will begin to design alternative improvements that meet project objectives. Design alternatives will be presented during a second Public Information Meeting, which will be held later this summer. VDOT will evaluate comments from the public on the design alternatives and, through coordination with the Town of Leesburg, will select a preferred design alternative.

The preferred alternative will be refined and presented to the public at the Public Hearing, which will be held in spring 2017. The preferred alternative will also be presented to the Leesburg Town Council and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors for endorsement, as well as VDOT's Chief Engineer or designee for approval.

Please stay updated on project information and plan to join us for the next Public Information Meeting and the Public Hearing. Your input and opinions are critical to the success of the project!

Project information is available several ways:

- Online at the VDOT project website http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/route_15_interchange.asp
- In person at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office located at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Virginia; or at VDOT's Leesburg Residency Office located at 41 Lawson Road SE, Leesburg, Virginia. Please call ahead using the contact information below to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.
- Comments and questions can be e-mailed to meeting_comments@vdot.virginia.gov. Please include "US Route 15 Edwards Ferry Road Interchange" in the subject line.

Contact Information

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Public Information Meeting
**US Route 15 Interchange at
Edwards Ferry Road
and Fort Evans Road, Town of Leesburg**



Thursday March 10, 2016, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Leesburg Elementary School
323 Plaza Street NE, Leesburg, Virginia 20176

Public Information Meeting

State Project No. 0015-253-306 P101 / UPC 89890

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) Public Information Meeting for proposed improvements along US Route 15 at Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road in the Town of Leesburg.

This meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for the public to give VDOT comments and feedback on the proposed project. The meeting will be held in an "open house" format and will not include a presentation, however there will be "stations" to allow participants to meet and discuss the project directly with project staff members.

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. VDOT and Town of Leesburg representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

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 summary for review by VDOT and Town of Leesburg personnel, citizens and other interested parties.

Project Overview

- Purpose** Relieve congestion, increase capacity, and enhance safety along US Route 15 Leesburg Bypass in the vicinity of Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road.
- Project limits** Along US Route 15, from 0.3 miles south of Fort Evans Road to 0.3 miles north of Edwards Ferry Road
- Total length** Approximately 0.8 miles
- Improvements** Construct grade-separated interchange along US Route 15 at Edwards Ferry Road. Improve facilities for pedestrians. Construct improvements at Fort Evans Road to address traffic congestion and safety.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The US Route 15 corridor serves a broad range of users, including local and regional commuters, interstate commuters and commerce, retail patrons, the business community, and tourists. The mix of residential, commercial, and retail land uses adjacent to the US Route 15 corridor are critical to the Town's economic success and quality of life for Leesburg residents.

Under existing conditions, through-traffic volumes on US Route 15 Leesburg Bypass are high during weekday morning and evening peak hour periods. These conditions, combined with heavy turning movements oriented to and from Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road, cause heavy congestion in peak directions of travel. In addition, the existing roadway network operates with gaps in sidewalks, and existing conditions provide no opportunities for pedestrians to safely cross US Route 15. The intersections along US Route 15 at Edwards Ferry Road and Fort Evans Road have a history of elevated crash rates.

Existing traffic volumes on US Route 15 are expected to increase 25 to 30% by the year 2040. Increased traffic demand will result in more congestion, longer peak periods, fewer opportunities for safe pedestrian movements, and increased traffic safety concerns.

The project will construct a grade-separated interchange along US Route 15 at Edwards Ferry Road to increase capacity for all traffic movements, and enhance pedestrian mobility. The project will also design and construct improvements at the US Route 15 / Fort Evans Road intersection to reduce recurring congestion and address safety concerns.

The need for additional capacity and safety enhancements in the US Route 15 corridor cannot be addressed through completion of other ongoing projects. The proposed project is consistent with the VDOT Six-Year Improvement Program, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Constrained Long-Range Plan, and transportation plans adopted by the Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County.

Project Graphic



Estimated Project Cost

Project Costs:

- Preliminary engineering - \$6 - 8 million
- Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation - \$4 - 7 million
- Construction - \$50 - 55 million

Total - \$60 - 70 million

The preliminary design of this project is funded by the Town of Leesburg and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Costs are subject to change as the design of the project is refined.

Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information or for special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711.

Right of Way

As the design of the project is further developed, easements and right-of-way may be required. Impacted property owners will be informed of the exact location of the easements prior to construction during the right of way acquisition process.

Information on the acquisition process is discussed in VDOT's brochure, "Right-of-Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available here from a VDOT Right-of-Way agent.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule is proposed:

- **1st Public Information Meeting**- summer 2016
- **Public Hearing** - spring 2017
- **Design approval** - fall 2017
- **Advertise project** - to be determined*
- **Begin construction** - to be determined*
- **Construction Complete** - to be determined*

* *Right-of-way and construction funding must be identified before the project can be advanced beyond design.*

Environmental Review

VDOT has performed environmental reviews and coordinated with federal, state, and local agencies 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.

In accordance with 23 CFR 771 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a Categorical Exclusion (CE) is being prepared in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration. The CE will include information from various technical reviews including those related to water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will also be provided in the environmental documentation.

The project will continue to be coordinated with the appropriate federal, state and local agencies as part of the environmental review and approval processes required throughout project development and construction. All required environmental clearances and permits will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT's specifications and standard best management practices will be conducted to protect the environment during construction.

The NEPA document and any other applicable environmental studies will be made available for review at the project's Design Public Hearing. Representatives from VDOT's Environmental Section are available to discuss preliminary findings and to answer questions.