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LOCATION PUBLIC HEARING

## US 460 Bypass Interchange and Southgate Drive Relocation Town of Blacksburg

State Project No.: 0460-150-204, P101, R201, C501, B601; UPC 99425

Wednesday, May 8, 2013, 5 - 7 pm  
The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center  
901 Prices Fork Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

### Welcome

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has completed an Environmental Assessment for the replacement and relocation of the existing at-grade intersection of US 460 Bypass and Southgate Drive with a grade-separated interchange. Also included in the project is the relocation of a section of Southgate Drive to connect to the new interchange.

### Purpose of the Hearing

The purpose of this hearing is to provide a public opportunity for any person, acting on his/her own behalf or representing a group or governing body, to offer comments or submit written material concerning the Environmental Assessment. We invite you to review the findings of the Environmental Assessment and discuss the project with VDOT representatives who are here to answer your questions. All comments received will be considered prior to a final decision on the EA.

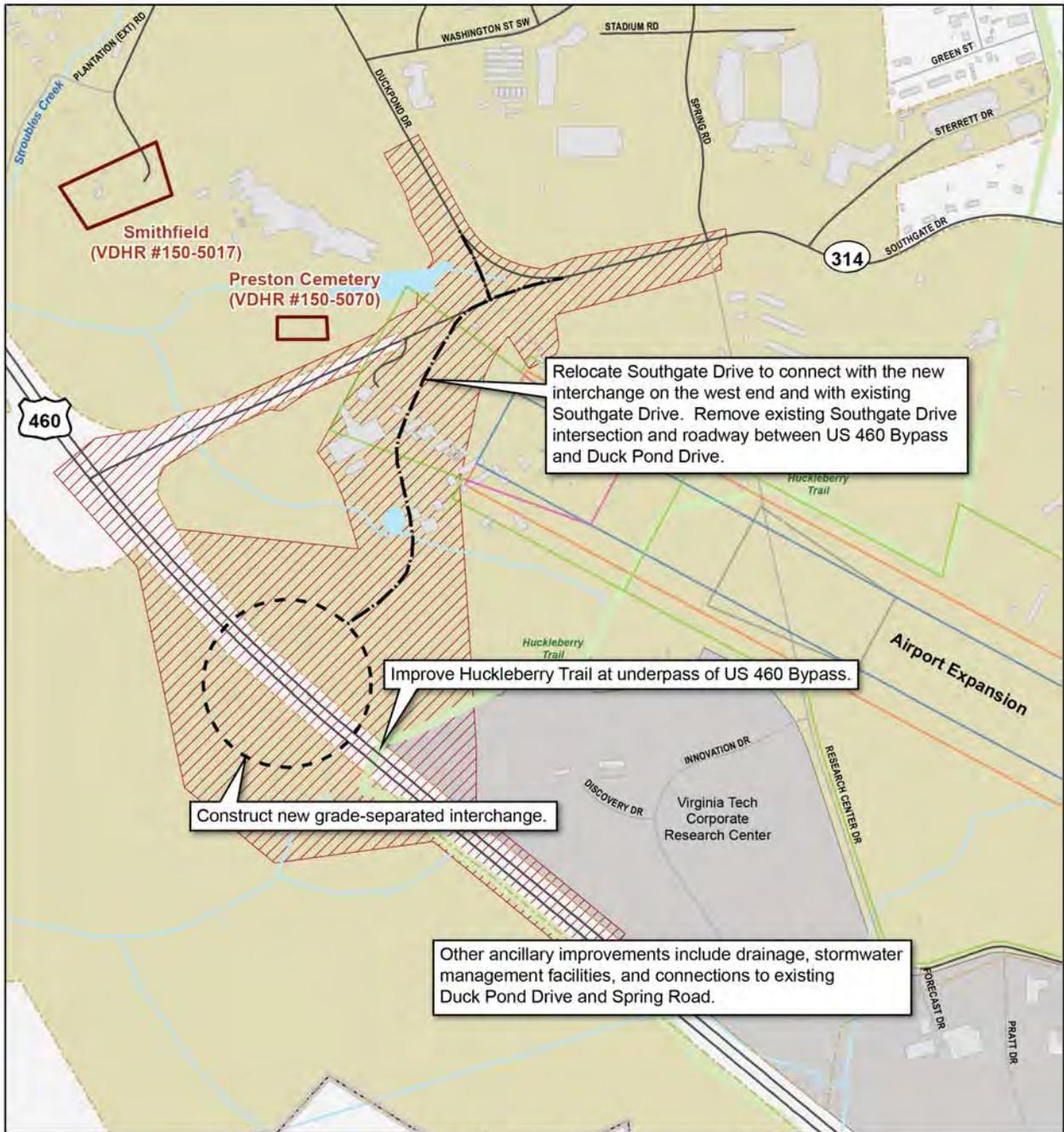
### Background

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Reduce congestion and thereby improve level of service at the intersection of Southgate Drive and US 460 Bypass.
- Improve safety on US 460 Bypass by improving the existing at-grade signalized intersection that is located between adjacent grade-separated interchanges along a limited-access highway.
- Improve accessibility and mobility to and within the surrounding activity and employment centers within the region.

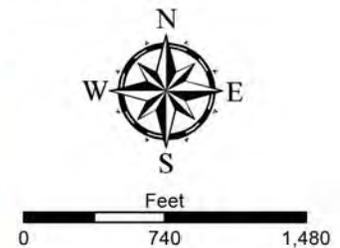


# Description of Build Alternative



## Legend

- - - New Interchange
- · · Relocation of Southgate Drive
- ▨ Study Corridor
- ▭ Historic Properties

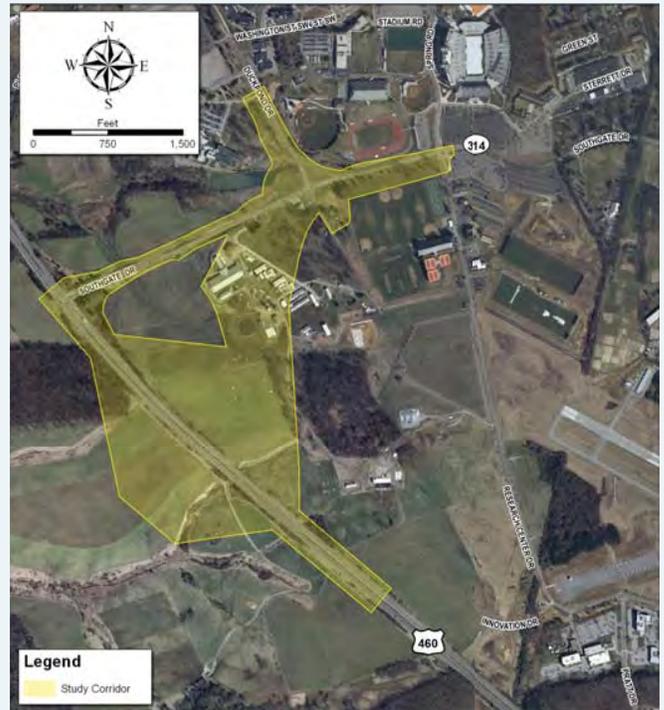


## Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts

Potential impacts of the No-Build and Build Alternatives are summarized in the table below. The impacts of the actual construction and right of way footprint would be expected to be less than the impacts reported for the study corridor, which is shown in the adjacent figure. The study corridor represents an exaggerated "footprint" of the project to provide an assessment of worst-case impacts and to provide flexibility during final design to consider multiple variations of specific alignments and design features.

There are two architectural historic properties within the study's architectural area of potential effects (APE): Smithfield (VDHR #150-5017) and the Preston Family Cemetery (VDHR #150-5070). The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) concurred on March 27, 2013 that the project as currently proposed will have no effect on either property.

FHWA intends to make a *de minimis* finding with respect to the project's Section 4(f) involvement with the Huckleberry Trail. Before a final determination is made, we ask for your comments regarding the effects of the project on the activities, features, and attributes of the trail.



Category	Potential Impacts	
	No-Build	Build Alternative
Total Area within Study Corridor (acres)	0	150
Preliminary Estimate of Approximate New Right of Way Needed for the Project, for Illustrative Purposes Only (acres)	0	25
Homes, Businesses, Schools, Churches, Community Facilities within Study Corridor	0	0
Section 4(f) Property within Study Corridor (acres)	0	3.8
Historic Properties Adversely Affected	0	0
Agricultural and Forestal District Land Used within Study Corridor (acres)	0	0
Total Prime/Unique/Statewide/Local Important Farmland within Study Corridor (acres)	0	118
Prime and Unique Farmland within Study Corridor (acres)	0	53
Statewide and Local Important Farmland within Study Corridor (acres)	0	65
Acidic Rock/Soil Area within Study Corridor (acres)	0	0
Number of Streams within Study Corridor	0	3
Length of Streams within Study Corridor (linear feet)	0	2,104
Wetlands within Study Corridor (acres)	0	1
Floodplains within Study Corridor (acres)	0	0
Forest Area within Study Corridor (acres)	0	3
Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species Identified by USFWS that may Occur in the Vicinity of the Study Corridor	0	4
Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species that would be Adversely Affected by Construction of the Project within the Study Corridor	0	0
Hazardous Material Sites within Study Corridor	0	1
Violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards	0	0
Noise Impacts	0	2 future trails

## Environmental Review

The Environmental Assessment was prepared and approved for public availability by FHWA on April 4, 2013. Copies of the document are available for review here tonight, or it can be reviewed on VDOT's web site at [http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/salem/southgate\\_connector\\_-\\_blacksburg.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/salem/southgate_connector_-_blacksburg.asp). It is also available at VDOT's Christiansburg Residency Office located at 105 Cambria Street in Christiansburg and VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Avenue in Salem. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, information concerning potential effects on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also available at tonight's meeting.

## Schedule

Date	Event
04/04/13	Environmental Assessment approved by FHWA for public availability
05/08/13	Public Hearing
05/18/13	Final day to submit comments
Early Summer	Environmental Assessment revised, as appropriate, based on comments received
Late Summer	Final Decision on the EA by FHWA

## What's Next?

VDOT will review and evaluate the comments you provide to us tonight and during the comment period. The Environmental Assessment will be revised as appropriate to reflect changes in the proposed action resulting from comments received. It will then be submitted to FHWA, along with a copy of the public hearing transcript, the recommendation for the project, and a request that a final decision be made by FHWA.



## Civil Rights

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For additional information or assistance, contact VDOT's Salem District Office: 731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153; telephone 540-387-5353, TDD/TTY 800-307-4630 or 711.

## Right of Way and Relocation Assistance

Information about right of way purchase is provided in VDOT's brochure entitled "Right of Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available here from VDOT's Right of Way representatives. After this meeting, information and questions regarding right of way should be directed to:

Lori A. Snider  
Salem District Right of Way and Utilities Manager  
731 Harrison Avenue, Salem, VA 24153  
540-387-5587

## Get Involved

Please review the maps and displays and share your thoughts by using the comment sheet provided with this brochure. You may leave your comments in the box provided at tonight's meeting. You may also record your comments orally at the designated recording station.

If you are not ready to provide your comments tonight, you may submit them by May 18, 2013 to the following address, which is also preprinted on the back of the comment sheet:

Patrick Hughes  
Environmental Division  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
1401 E. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

You also can submit comments by email to:

[Patrick.Hughes@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Patrick.Hughes@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

Please reference "US 460 Bypass Interchange and Southgate Drive Relocation Public Comment" in the subject line.