

Get Involved

Ten days after this public hearing, the public comment period will close on **May 8, 2022**.

Comments can be submitted in writing to Hayden.Hill@VDOT.Virginia.gov or mailed to the address provided on the comment form. Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today's hearing (held April 28, 2022) in order to be included in the public hearing meeting record.

VDOT will review and evaluate any information received as a result of this hearing. This information, including the hearing summary, will be available for review at the VDOT office address listed below. Please call prior to visiting to assure the availability of staff to assist you.

After all comments have been addressed, and after receiving endorsement from the York County

Board of Supervisors, 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.

Questions concerning the right-of-way relocation or acquisition process should be directed to Mr. Scott Mersiowsky, Regional Right of Way Manager, at the contact information given in the table below. All other questions or comments should be directed to Ms. Hayden Hill, at the contact information given below.

For additional project information, visit VDOT's website at: <https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/hampton-roads/rt17widening.asp>.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Hayden Hill, P.E.	VDOT Project Manager	7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	757-323-7529	Hayden.Hill@VDOT.Virginia.gov
Scott Mersiowsky	Regional Right of Way Manager	7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	804-316-6941	Scott.Mersiowsky@VDOT.Virginia.gov
Queen Crittendon	Hampton Roads District Civil Rights	7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	757-956-3000 (TTY/TDD users call 711)	Queen.Crittendon@VDOT.Virginia.gov
Brittany McBride	Hampton Roads District Communications	7511 Burbage Drive Suffolk, VA 23435	757-956-3029	HamptonRoadsPublicInfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Design Public Hearing

Route 17 Widening between Route 630 and Route 173 York County

Thursday, April 28, 2022, 4 - 7 p.m.
Grafton Middle School
405 Grafton Drive
Yorktown, VA 23692

Public Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) design public hearing on a proposed widening project on George Washington Memorial Highway (Route 17) located between Wolf Trap Road (Route 630) to just north of Denbigh Boulevard (Route 173) in York County.

This 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



Route 17 looking southbound at Brick Church Road

Cost – \$22.5 million (approximate)

Purpose – To increase capacity and reduce congestion along the Route 17 corridor

From – 0.154 miles south of Grafton Drive

To – 0.266 miles south of Old York-Hampton Highway

Total length – 0.713 mile stretch of roadway

Improvements – Widening Route 17 in both directions from four to six lanes, new curb and gutter, intersection improvements at Route 17 and Denbigh Boulevard, and upgraded traffic signals.

Project Description

The project is located in York County on George Washington Highway (Route 17) between Wolf Trap Road and Old York-Hampton Highway.

Route 17 is an urban principal arterial roadway with a current average daily traffic (ADT) of 34,000 vehicles. The ADT is projected to be 44,000 vehicles per day in design year 2044. The posted speed limit is 45 MPH.

The purpose of the project is to increase capacity and reduce congestion along the corridor by widening Route 17 from four to six lanes between Wolf Trap Road to just north of Denbigh Boulevard.

The roadway widening will consist of 11-foot lanes with curb and gutter on both sides of the roadway. Additional project improvements also include intersection improvements at Denbigh Boulevard, as well as updated traffic signals.

Traffic on Route 17 will be maintained with a minimum of a single lane in each direction throughout the project duration. Lane closures will be implemented during this project.

Residents will be notified of significant traffic impacts in advance of construction. During construction, access will be maintained for local businesses and property owners.

Project Map



Top: View of widened project corridor from south of Grafton Drive to south of Brick Church Road.
Bottom: View of widened project corridor from south of Brick Church Road to south of Old York-Hampton Highway.

Estimated Project Cost

Total Cost:

\$22.5 million (approximate)

Preliminary Engineering of Roadway Plans:

\$1.8 million

Right of Way Acquisition and Utility Relocation:

\$8.9 million

Construction: \$11.9 million

This cost is subject to change because development of the project is in early design stages. The project will be financed using federal funds.

Environmental Review

A Categorical Exclusion (CE) has been prepared and approved for this project. This document is available for public review here tonight. Through on-site inspections, 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. For a resource to be considered a historic property, it must be eligible for the National Register. Therefore, since no historic properties are located within the project's area of potential effect, the project will not have an effect on historic properties.

Anticipated Project Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:

Design Public Hearing – April 28, 2022

Begin Right of Way Activities – Fall 2023

Award Contract & Start Construction – Early 2027

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 systems and projects 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 easements for utility relocation may be required beyond the proposed right-of-way acquisition process and 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.